

ANDRONICVS,  
*Shew* OR, ~~AND~~  
The Vnfortunate  
POLITICIAN.

Shewing, { Sin stoutly punished.  
              { Right surely rescued.

ECCLES. 8. II.

*Because sentence against a dull worke is  
not executed speedily, therefore the  
heart of the Sons of men is fully set  
in them to doe euill.*

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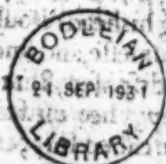
BY THO. FULLER. B.D.

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To the Reader.







## To the Reader.

**W**E read of King \* A H A-<sup>Heb. 2.6.</sup>  
 S. H U E R O S H, that  
 having his head troubled  
 with much businesse, and finding  
 himselfe so indisposed, that hee  
 could not sleep, hee caused the  
 Records to be called for, & read  
 unto him; hoping thereby to de-  
 ceive the tediousnesse of the  
 time, (an honest fraud) and that  
 the pleasant passages in the *Chro-  
 nicles* would either invite slum-  
 ber unto him, or enable him to  
 endure waking with lesse mole-  
 station.

We live in a troublesome and  
 tumultuous age; and hee needs

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to have a very soft bed, who can sleep soundly now a dayes, amidst so much loud noised, and many imperious rumors. Wherefore it seemeth to mee, both a safe and cheap Receipt, to procure Quiet and Repose to the Mind which complains for want of rest, to prescribe unto it the reading of History.

Great is the pleasure and profit thereof. \* *Zaccheus*, wee know, was low and little in stature, but when hee had borrowed some height from the Fig-Tree, into which he climbed, the Dwarf was made a Gyant on a suddain; last minute beneath the Armes, but now grown above the heads of other men. Thus our experimentall knowledge is, in it selfe, both short and narrow, as which cannot exceed *the spanne of our owne life*. But when wee are mounted on the Advantage of Hi-

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History, we can, not onely reach  
the yeere of Christs Incarnati-  
on, but, even touch the top of  
the worlds beginning, and at one  
view over-see all remarkable ac-  
cidents of former ages.

Wherefore, untill such time,  
as I shall by Gods providence,  
and the Authority of my Supe-  
riors, bee restored to the open  
Exercise of my profession, on  
termes consisting with my Con-  
science, (which welcome Mi-  
nute, I doe heartily wish, and  
humbly wait for; and will gree-  
dily listen to the least whisper  
sounding thereunto) it is my in-  
tent (God willing) to spend the  
remnant of my dayes in reading  
and writing such Stories as my  
weak judgement shall commend  
unto me for most beneficiall.

Our English Writers tell us of  
David King of the Scots, that  
A 3 whilst

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whilst he was Prisoner in a Cave  
in Nottingham Castle. He with  
his Nails, shall I say carved,  
(or) scratched out the whole  
History of our Saviours Passion,  
in the Wall. And although the  
Figures be rough and rude, yet  
in one respect they are to be  
compared unto, yea, preferred  
before the choyselt Pieces, and  
most exact Platformes of all En-  
gravers, being done at such dis-  
advantages; cut out of a maine  
Rock, without any light to di-  
rect him, or Instruments to help  
him, besides his bare hands.

The Application of the Story  
serves mee for manifold uses.  
First, here I learn, if that Princes,  
then meaner Persons, are bound  
to finde themselves some honest  
employment. Secondly, that in  
a sad and solitary condition, a  
Calling is a comfortable Com-  
panion. Thirdly, where men  
want

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want Necessaries, fit Tooles and  
Materialls, the worke that they  
doe. (if it be any degree passa-  
ble) deserves, if not to bee  
praised, to bee pardoned. Which  
encourageth me to expect of the  
charitable Reader, favour for  
the faults in this Tract commit-  
ted, when hee considers the Au-  
thor in effect banished, & Book-  
lesse, and wanting severall ac-  
commodations requisite to the  
compleating an History.

*Noah*, to make an *Essay*\*, whe- \*Gen. 8.7.  
ther the waters were abated from  
the face of the earth, before hee  
would adventure to expose the  
whole Fraught of his Arke to  
danger, dispatch'd a Dove to  
make discovery, and report  
unto him the condition of the  
World, intending to order him-  
selfe accordingly. A deep De-  
luge hath lately over-flowed the  
whole Kingdome, to the drow-

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ning of many, and enlarging of  
all. I send forth this small Treas-  
ure, to try whether the swelling  
forges, and boyling billowes in  
mens breasts, (flowing from the  
distance in their judgments, and  
difference in their affection) be-  
gin now to assuage, and whether  
there be a dry place for this my  
innocent Dove, safely to settle  
her selfe. If shee finde any tolle-  
rable entertainment, or indiffe-  
rent Approbation abroad, it will  
give mee encouragement to ad-  
venture a Volumnie of a more  
usefull Subject, and greater con-  
cernment in the view of the  
world.

*Thine in all Christian  
offices,*

**THO. FULLER.**

*The*

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ANDRONICUS

OR  
The vnfortunate  
POLITITIAN.

---

*The first Booke.*

I.  Lexius Comnenus, only *An.Dom.*  
Son of *Manuel Com-* 1179.  
*nenus*, succeeded his  
Father in the Empire of *Constan-*  
*tinople*. A child hee was in Age  
& Judgment : of wit, too short to  
measure an honorable sport, but  
lost himselfe in low delights. Hee  
hated a booke, more then a mon-  
ster did a looking-glasse, and  
when his Tutor indeavored to  
play him into Schollership,  
by presenting pleasant Au-  
thors unto him, hee returned,  
that

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that learning was beneath the Greatnesse of a Prince, who, if wanting it, might borrow it from his subjects, being better stor'd; *for (saith hee) if they will not lend mee their braines, I'll take away their heads.* Yea he allowed no other Librarie, then a full stor'd Cellar, resembling the Butts to Folioes. Barrells to Quartoes, smaller Runlets, to lesser Volumns, and studied away his time, with base Company, in such debauchednesse.

2. Leave wee *Alexius* drowning his Care, or rather carelesnesse in wine, to behold *Zene* his mother the Regent Emperresse. Surfeting also in pleasure with her husband *Proto-sebastus*, who had married her, Since the decease of *Mannuel* her late husband. This *Proto-sebastus* a better Stallion, then warre-horse, *was a perfect Epicure, (so that Apitius, in comparison of him, was*



was a Churle to starve himselfe,) better at his palat, then his tōgue, yet better at his tongue, then his Armes, being a notorious Coward. He, with the Empreſſe, conſpired to the diſſolute Education of young *Alexius*, keeping him in conſtant ignorance of himſelf, their ſtrength conſiſting in his weakenefſe, who had he been bred to underſtand his owne power, might probably have curb'd their exorbitances.

3. The Bodie of the Grecian State, at this time, muſt needs be ſtragely diſtempered, under ſuch heads. Preferment was only ſcattered amongſt Paraſites, for them to ſcramble for it. The Court had as many Factions, as Lords, ſave that all their diviſions united themſelves in a generall vitiousneſſe; and that *Theodorus* the Patriarch, was ſcoffed at by all as an antick for uſing Goodneſſe, when it was out of faſhion

and was adjudged impudent, for presuming to be pious alone by himselfe.

4. As for the City of Constantinople, the cheif seate of the Grecian Empire; she had enjoyed happinesse so long, that now she pleaded *Prescription* for prosperity. Because living in Peace *Time out of mind*, she conceived it, rather a wrong, to have constant Quiet denied, than a favour, from Heaven, to have it continued vnto her. Indeed, Shee was grown sicke, of a Surfet of health, and afterwards was broken, with having too much Riches. For instead of honest industrie, & painfull thrift, which first caused the greatnes of this City: now flowing with wealth, there was nothing therein, but the swelling of Pride, the boiling of lust, the fretting of Envie, and the squeezing of Oppression. So that should their dead Auncestours arise, they would be puzzl'd to see

Constantinople for it felfe, except they were directed there unto, by the Ruines of St. *Sophies* Temple. True it was, some years since, upon a great famine, some hopes were given of a generall Amendment. During which time, Riot began to grow thrifty, pride to goe plaine, Gluttons to fast, and wantons were starv'd into Temperance. But forced Reformation will last no longer, then X the violent cause thereof doth Continue. For soon after, when plenty was again restord, they relapsed to their former Badnesse, yea afterwards became fouler for the Purge, and more wanton for the Rod, when it was Removed.

5. Now there was an Antifashion in the Grecian Empire, maintained by some Lords of antient Extraction, who were highly offended at the great Power which *Proto-Sebastus*, and *L. Xene* the Empresse usurped to themselves;

and meeting privately together, *Andronicus Lapardas*, as prolocutor for the rest, vented his discontentment. Complaining, it was more then high time, that they now awake out of the Lethargie of Security, into which, by fooles lullabyes, they had coufened themselves. That they in the Empire, which have most at the Stake, are made only lookers on; sometimes admitted to the Counsell, out of Complement, and for Countenance barely to concurre; but for the maine kept in Ignorance of most materiall passages. That their names are all branded for Death, and that no love to their persons, but fear what might follow, had hitherto secured their lives. In a word; that they must speedily resolve on some projects for their protection, or else they should approve themselves heirs to *Epimethens*, who is not found to have left

left any Land unto his Sonnes,  
but only to have bequeathed an  
uselesse Sorrow unto them, for  
their *Portion*.

Hereupon they entred into a  
strict Combination with them-  
selves secretly, vowing that  
they would improve their ut-  
most might to bring in *Andro-  
nicus Comnenus*, a Prince of the  
bloud, one of great parts and abi-  
lities, (but lately banished out of  
the Empire) to counterpoise the  
power of *Prata-Sebastus*, and to  
free young *Alexius* from the  
wardship of such as abused him.  
We wil present the Reader with  
a list of their Titles and offices,  
who were ingaged in this de-  
signe; intreating him not to be  
offended with us, because of the  
hardnesse and length of their  
Names; but rather with their  
God-fathers who Christened  
them. We have an English Pro-  
verbe that *bones bring meat to*

*Town*, and those who are desirous to feast themselves on the pleasant & profitable passages of *Historie*, must bee content some time to stoope their stomachs to feed on hard words, which bring matter along with them.

7. First, *Maria Prophyrogenita Cesarissa* daughter to *Mannuel* the late Emperour, by a former wife, halfe sister to *Alexius* the young Emperour.

2. *Cesar* her Husband, an Italian Lord, who was so overtopt with the high birth, and spirit of his wife, that in this *Historie* we find him not grown much above the bare mention of his Name.

3. *Conto-Stephanus*, the Great Duke, Admirall of the Gallies.

4. *Camaterus Basilus* President of the City.

5. *Hagiochristophorites Stephanus*,

*mus*, Captaine of the Guard. 1179.

6. *Disypatus Georgius* Lecturer  
in the great Church, (an  
higher office, then the mo-  
derne acceptation of the  
word doth imply.)

7. *Tripsycus Constantinus* one  
of the most noble extracti-  
ons.

8. *Macroducas Constantinus*, no  
whit inferiour to him in pe-  
degree, or power.

9. *Andronicus Lapardas*, for-  
merly mentioned, together  
with the aforefaid

10. *Theodorus*, the Patriark, last  
named, because least interes-  
sed. For in matters of piety,  
hee was governed by his  
conscience, but in matters of  
Policy, by good Company,  
being therein himselfe ut-  
terly unskilled: and stran-  
gers in unknowne waies  
commonly follow the most  
beaten Tract of others be-  
fore

fore them. All these joyn'd in a league to bring *Andronicus* home to *Constantinople*, who, what he was, and how qualified, we will not forestall the Reader, conceiving it, though something painefull, yet more healthfull for him to gaine his Character by degrees in the Sequell of his Actions, wherein he will sufficiently discover himselfe, without our description of him.

8. Now *Maria Caesarissa* was imployed unto *Andronicus* (having ability in her selfe, and advantage by her Sex for the cunning carriage of the matter) to acquaint him with their designs. She coming to *Oeneum*, where he liv'd in Banishment, informed him of the generall discontent in the Grecian Empire: And how those which basely served *Xene*, did only command in the State.

That,



That, besides those great persons, ( whose names she presented in writing ) many others ( as yet scrupulous Newters ) would have their doubts fully satisfied, and declare on his side when they saw him appeare with a powerfull Army. That it would be a meritorious worke to enfranchise his Kinsman *Alexius* from their slavery, where-under he, and the *Grecian* Empire did grone.

9. Welcom was this Invitation to *Andronicus*, to be requested to doe, what of himselfe he desired. How willingly doth the fire fly upwards, especially when employed to fill up a vacancy; because then doing 3. good Offices, with one motion; Namely, expressing its Dutifulnesse to the Dictates of Dame Nature; and contributing in Case of Necessity, to the Preservation of the Universe; and pleasing its owne pecu-

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peculiar Tendency, which delights in ascending: Such now the Condition of *Andronicus*, who in this undertaking, would show Courteous in granting the Request of his friends, appear pious in promoting the generall good, and withall satisfie the Appetite of his owne Ambition and Revenge. Wherefore with treasure, whereof he had plenty, he provided men and Armes, and prepared with all speed for the Expedition.

10. But he could not be more busie about his War, then *Xene* was imployed about her wantōnesse, counting in life all spilt, that was not sport, who to revenge herselfe on envious death, meant in mirth to make herselfe Reparation, for the Shortnesse of her life. That time, which flieth of it selfe, she sought to drive a way, with unlawful Recreations. And though Musicke did jarre, and mirth

mirth was prophaneſſe, at this 1179.  
 preſent time, wherein all did  
 feele what was bad, and feare  
 what was worſe, yet ſhee by wā-  
 ton Songes (Panders to Luſt)  
 and other provocatives, did a-  
 wake the ſleeping Sparks of her  
 Corruption, into a flame of open  
 wickedneſſe.

11. But it was a great and  
 ſudden abatement to her jollity  
 to heare, that *Andronicus*, with a  
 puiſſant Armie, was approach-  
 ing the City. *Alexius Protoſebaſ-  
 tus*, her minion, did woe al people  
 to make reſiſtance. But he found  
 abundance of Neuters, (of that  
 luke-warne temper) which Hea-  
 ven and Hell doth hate,) who  
 would *not out of their Houſes,*  
*but ſtay at \* home and ſide with*  
*neither party,* theſe did maintaine  
 that the *publicke Good* was no-  
 thing but the reſult of many  
 mens particular good, and there-  
 fore held; that in ſaving their  
 own

\* *et* *non*  
*liberum*  
*est*  
*esse*  
*neutrum*  
*inter*  
*duos*  
*partes*  
*neque*  
*pro*  
*una*  
*neque*  
*pro*  
*altera*  
*parte*

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own they advanced the generall. Indeed they hop'd, though the great vessell of the State was wrackt, in a private fly-boat of Neutrality, to waft their own Adventure safe to the Shore. But who ever saw dauncers on Rops, so equally to poise themselves, but at last they fell downe and brake their Necks? And we will take the Boldnesse to point at these hereafter, and to shew what was their Successe.

12. The best thing w<sup>ch</sup> befriended *Protosebastus* (next to his owne Money) was the obliging disposition of *Xene*. She had as many *Nets* as *Gestures* to catch affections in, and with her Smiles, did not onely presse, but pay all Carpet Knights, and amorous Persons to be of her partie. The City of *Constantinople* was thrice walled, with wood, stones, and bones, plenty of Shipping, artificiall Fortifications, and multitudes

ruds of men. The worst was, their Arsenall was a goodly Stable of gallant wooden Horses, but they wanted Riders to manage them, The *Grecians* (at this time) being very simple Seamen, though Nature may seeme both to woe and teach them to be skilfull Mariners, by affording them plenty of Safe Harbours. However the *Grecians* conceiving Navigation beneath their honour (which indeed was above their *Industrie*;) resigned the benefit of Trading in their owne Seas to the *Italians* of *Pisa*, *Genoa*, *Florence*, and *Venice*. *Protosebastus* hired *Mercenary* Mariners of these, and with them man'd his Ships, Stopping the passages of *Propontis*, by which *Andronicus* coming from *Paphlagonia*, out of the lesser *Asia*, was to passe.

13 But now an Admirall was to be provided for his Navie: *Conto-Stephanus* the great Duke, for-

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formerly mentioned, challenged the Place as proper to himselfe, scorning to be made a Stale to weare the Style in Peace, and not to execute the Office in warr, when occasion was offered to shew his valour, and serve his Countrey. What should *Protosebastus* do? it is equally dangerous to offend, or imploy him. Yet he resolves on the latter, not willing to teach him, to be dishonest by suspecting him, and conceiving it to be an engagement, on a Noble Nature to be trusty, because he was trusted. But he no sooner received the Charge, but betrayed all the Gallies to *Andronicus*, whereby in an instant he was made Master of all those Seas. The news whereof being brought to the City; oh what riding, what running, what packing, what posting! happy he that could trip up his Neighbours heeles, to get first into

into the favour of *Andronicus*. Many that stak't their wives and children at home in the City, had laid good *Betts* abroad on the opposite Party.

14. *Andronicus* being easily waisted over, comes to the Gates of *Constantinople*. Here to oppose him, there was rather a Skirmish then a Fight, or rather a flourish then a skirmish, the land forces consisting of two Sorts. First old Souldiers, who formerly having been notorious Plunderers, had their Armes so pressed downe, with the weight of the peoples just Curses, that they could not lift up their Swords to any purpose, but having formerly preyed on their Friends, were made a prey to there Foes: Secondly Citizens; vsed onely to traverse their Shops, and unacquainted with military Performances. The city

C

once

once entred, was instantly conquered, (whose strength was much oversam'd) such populous Places, like unweildy bodies, sink with their owne weight.

15. *Protosebastus* was taken Prisoner, and was kept some dayes and nights waking, being pinch'd, when once offering to shut his eyes. A torment which we meet not with to be used to so high a person, though (they say) of late in Fashion, for the discovery of Witches.

But to put him out of his paine, *Andronicus* is conceived by some, mercifull unto him, in causing his eyes to be bored out, seeing it was lesse torture not to see, then not to sleepe; So much for this great Coward, though this his Character, cannot be guessed from his Demeanour herein; seeing a better Souldier might have been worsted in this  
Expe-



Expedition againg Force, of open Foes, and fraud of seeming freinds, it being impossible to make them fight, who are resolved to flye.

16. The Army thus entring the City, some outrages, they must of Course commit, but those, neither for Number or Nature, such as might have been expected: For when a place is taken by Assault, the most strict *Commanders* are not able to keep the mouthes of their Souldiers Swords fasting, but may be commended for moderate, if they feed not to a Surfet. Besides, such was the infinite wealth of *Constantinople*, her treasures would tempt the fingers of Saints, much more of Souldiers; the *Paphlagonians*, (whereof the Army consisted,) vowed, that seeing their Swords had done so good service, they

would make *hilt*s of Gold, for their *Blades* of Steele.

17. There was then inhabiting in the City of *Constantinople*, multitudes of *Frankes* (understand *French*, *Germanes*, and principally *Italians*,) so that well might this City be called *new Rome*, from the abundance of *Latins* that lived therein, These first by Manufactures, and then by Merchandice, got great wealth, (their diligence being more, and Luxurie lesse then the *Greekes*,) insomuch that they ingrossed all Trading to themselves. This attracted the Envie of the Natives, that Strangers should suck the Marrow of the State, alledging, that in Proesse of time, the *Ivie* would grow to be an Oake, & those prove absolute in their owne power, which, at first, were dependent for their Protection. *Andronicus* with some

some-thing more than a bare Connivance, though lesse then a full Command, freely consigned these *Frankes* over to the Rapine of his Army.

18. Such of them as related, by former Freindship or *Alliance* to the *Grecians*, fled to them for shelter, who, instead of preserving, persecuted them, their Company being Conceived Infectious, lest it should bring the Plague of the Souldiers fury along with it. And who findes a faithfull friend in Miserie? All their goods were spoild, and most of there lives spill'd, save such as formerly had escaped by flight to their Ships. Thus *Andronicus* found a cheap way, both to pay his Souldiers, and please the People, who counted him an excellent *Physitian* of the State, and this a great Cure done by him, in purging the superfluous,


fluens, yea noxius Aliens out of  
the City. Indeed carefull he was  
to preserve the City it selfe from  
spoiling, as having then a squint  
eye at the Empire; and knowing  
*Constantinople*, to be the Seat  
thereof, he would not deface  
that faire *Chaire* into which, in  
due time, he hop'd himselfe to  
sit downe.



The

---

The Second Booke.

I.  NDRONICUS being An. Dom.  
1189.  
thus peaceably posses'd of *Constantinople*, first made

his humble addresse to the yong Emperour *Alexius*, and ceremoniously kissed his feet. The Spectatours variously commented on his prodigious humility therein, Some conceiving, he mean't to build high, because he began so low; others thinking that their Toes had need beware the cramp, whose feet he kissed.

2. The next Stage, whereon his *Hypocrisie* acted, was the great Church it selfe, where, meeting *Theodorus* the Patriarke at the doore, he incountred him with

transcendent Courtship, protesting, that in him, he beheld the pattern of of *Chrysostome*, his famous Predecessour, it being questionable, whether that worthy father, did more truly survive, in the learned Books, he left to posterity, or in the looks and life of *Theodorus*. And whilst the Patriark was meditating a modest Replie, *Andronicus* did powr Complements, so full and fast upon him, that stifled therewith, he could breath no Answer in returne, but only fell into a swoound of Amazement.

3. Hence, he advanced into the Quire, unto the monument of *Manuel* his kinsman, and late Emperour. At sight whereof, the teares trickled downe his reverent Cheekes, as if they had run a race, which of them, should be the foremost: some interpreted this, the love which *Andronicus*

*nicus* bare to the memorie of the 1180  
dead Emperour, and others feared, that as the moist dropping of stones is the foure-runner of foule weather; so this relenting of his hard heart, presaged some storme to follow after, in the State. Then coming to *Manuels* Tombe, ordering his voice so low, as seeming he might not bee, and yet so loud, as certaine hee was heard, what he spake, he expressed himselfe to this effect.

4. *Deare Manuel, my loyaltie stiles thee Soveraign, but my bloud calls thee cosin. I will not say it was thy fault, but my fate, not to have my love to thee understoed, according to the integrity of my intentions. my Innocence, by thee, was banished into a farre Countrie. The Burthen did not greive mee, but the hand that laid it on; not somuch to be an Exile,*

as an Exile made by thee. However, all my revenge unto thee, shall be in advancing the honour and safety of thy sonne Alexius, to free whose Innocence, from the Abuse of his friend-pretended-enemies, I have embarked my selfe, in a dangerous and desperate designe: Yea my manifold Infirmities (of which I am most Conscious) grieve mee not so much, in my owne bebalfe, as because thereby I am rendred dis-able, from being serviceable to your sonne, in so high a degree, as I desire.

5. Then sinking his voyce, past possibility of being overheard, he continued. Basebloudy Hound, which chasest me from place to place. I here arrest thy drowsie Asbes, it being now past thy power to breake this marble Chest. I scorne to ungrave thy dust, (wishing that all my Enemies were as sumptuously entombed,) But thy  
Son,



*The Unfortunate Politician.*

*An. Dom.*

1180.

Sonne, Wife, Daughter, Favon-  
rites, Friends, Name, Memo-  
ry, I will utterly destroy. The  
Poets Phantasie begat three Furies  
in Hell, and I will be the fourth on  
Earth.

6. Some will demand, how we  
came to the knowledge of this  
Speech, being so secretly delive-  
red? It is answered, it is possi-  
ble some invisible Eare might  
lie in Ambush within the Eare-  
reach of his words. Besides, let  
not me be challenged for a libell,  
who can produce the party from  
whom I received it; and amongst  
others, discharge my selfe on  
one principall \* Author of Ex-  
cellent credit. Though I believe  
that this Speech was never taken  
from the Originall of *Androni-*  
*cus* his mouth, but was transla-  
ted from the black Coppie of  
his wicked Actions, which after-  
ward he committed.

\* *Nictas*  
*Comites*  
*invita A-*  
*lexij* *re-*  
*mere 16.*

7. His

7. His devotions ended, hee retired to his owne house, and there lived very privately, as renouncing all worldly Pompe and Pleasure, whilst his Engi-neeres, under-hand, were very active to procure the Empire for him, which was thus contrived: A Petition was drawne, in the name of all the People, requesting *Andronicus*, that hee would bee pleased, for the good of the State, to be chosen joynt Emperour with *Alexius*. This was subscribed by the principall men in everie place, and then Herds of silly Soules did the like. They never consulted with the Contents of the Paper, whether it was Bond, Bill, Libell, or Petition. But thought it a sinne, not to score their Marks, where they were told, their betters had gone before them. At first they wanted names for their  
Parch-

Parchmēt, but afterward, Parchment for their names. Here it would bee tedious to recount, what slights and forgeries were used herein. If any delayed to subscribe, they were presently urged with great mens Presidents ; that it was Superstition, to bee more holy than the Bishops : Rigour, to bee more just then the Judges : Malapartnesse, to pretend to more wisdome than so many States-men, who had already signed it. And thus, many fearefull Souls were compell'd to consent, by the Tyranny of others Examples. Indeed some few there were, which durst be honest, whose Soules did stand on a Basis of their own judgements, without leaning, with implicite faith, on others. These disavowed this State-Bigamie, protesting against the Co-Empireship of *Andronicus*,  
and

and boldly affirming, that Crownes take a Master if they accept a Mate. But then all their Names, were returned unto *Andronicus*, who registred them in his black Kallender, who, for the present, did remember, and for the future would requite them.

The principall Agent, that openly promoted this Businesse was *Basilus*, a Bishop, one that professed *Heaven*, and practised *Earth*, much meddling in Temporall matters, being both lewd and lazie in his owne profession: onely herein he had the Character of a good Churchman, that by his preaching and living he set forth his office accordingly.

9. And now the Scene being covertly laid, in a Solemne Assembly, on a high Festivall, this Bishop, as the mouth of the

the rest, ( whose names hee held in a Parchment Roll ) represented to *Andronicus* the sincere Intentions, and earnest wishes of the State. Most humbly requesting him, that he would be pleased so farre to ease the tender yeares of his dear kinsman, young *Alexius*, as to beare halfe the burthen of the Crowne, and to accept to bee joynt-Emperour with him: Presuming, that such was the Goodnesse and Humility of *Andronicus*, that he would not disdaine a Part, though hee did deserve the Whole. And after a long Oration concluded. Thus anciently the Roman Senate coupled old delaying Fabius, with over-hasty Marcellus, blending Youth with Age, the Swift with Slow: Wholsome mixture, when the one brought Eyes, the other Hands; the one was for Advice, the other for

for Action. And thus alone it is possible that the distempered State of the Grecian Empire at this present, can be cured with this Cordiall, and sacred Composition, of the Gravity of your Highnesse, to temper the green yeares of Alexius.

10. Hereat *Andronicus* discovered a strangenesse in his looks, as if he had needed an Interpreter to understand the Language which was spoken unto him; and after some Pause proceeded. Let me not be censured for unmannerly in not returning my thanks, having my soule for the present possessed with an higher employment of Admiration, That so many Aged States-men, as rich in wisdom, as yeares, should bee so much mistaken in mine Abilities, as to conceive me in any degree fit for the Moity of a Crowne. Goe chuse some Gallant, whose very flesh is Steele,

steele, can march all day, and watch all night, whose vast Achievements may adde Honour unto your Empire. Alas! my pale face, leane Cheeks, dimme eyes, faint heart, weak legges, speake me fit for no Crowne, but a Coffin, no Royall Robes, but a winding-sheet. Nor am I ashamed to confesse, that my youth hath been exceeding vitious, wherein I spared the Devill the paines of courting me, by preferring my selfe to his service: And now it is my onely joy, with grieve to recollect my former wickednesse. O flate I have found out a small private place, (call it, as you please, least of Cells, or greatest of Graves,) wherein I intend wholly to devote the Remnant of my life to Meditation of Mortality. For seeing naturally our soules are too deeply rooted in Earthlinesse, it is good to loosen them a little before,  
D that

An. Dem.

Andronicus, or

1180.

that so by Death, they may be  
pluckt up with the more Easinesse:  
Not that wilfully, either out of  
Lazinesse, or Sullenesse, I decline  
to serve my Country, which claimes  
a Share in mee. But though I know  
I am not to live for my selfe, I am  
to dye to my selfe, and may now  
at this Age, iustly Challenge to my  
selfe a Writt of ease, from all  
wordly employment.

11. But Basilus perceiving  
that he did but Complement a  
denyall, pressed him with the  
greater importunity: Confessing  
it would torment the modesty  
of his Highnesse to be told how  
{ high the Audit of his vertues did  
amount, knowing that he de-  
sired rather to deserve then  
hear his own commendations. But  
withall instantly intreated him  
to remember ( what he full well  
understood ) that the Intreaties  
of a whole State, had the power  
of



of Commands; and that Heaven  
it selfe was not so impregnable,  
but that it might be battered  
open, by the importunitie of  
poore Petitioners, That from  
his acceptance of this their hum-  
ble Proffer, they should here-  
after date the begining of their  
Happinesse. That this day should  
stand in the Front of their *Al-*  
*manackes*, and in *Scarlet Text*,  
as a leader, command over the  
rest, which followed it, as the  
new *Birth-Day* of the Grecian  
Empire.

12. How ever at that present  
nothing more was effected, & be-  
cause it was late, the Assembly  
was dismissed, only some prin-  
cipall Persons were appointed  
with their private perswasions,  
to mollifie the stiffenesse of *An-*  
*dronicus*, who prevailed so farre,  
that meeting next morning in  
the full Concourse of all Sorts of

People, *Andronicus*, First loosened the Vizard of his dissimulation for a time, letting it fairly hang by, at last it fell off of it's owne Accord, and thankfully accepted their Shouts, and Exclamations, with G O D SAVE ALEXIUS AND ANDRONICUS JOINT EMPEROURS OF GREECE.

x 13. Then mounted on a high Tribunall, he made an eloquent Oration, as indeed he was not only sweet, but luscious in his Language, and with the Circles of fine Phrases, could charme any Stranger, both into love, and admiration of his person; smiling, with a pleasant Countenance, he told them, that he conceived his owne Condition was represented in the Eagle, displayed in the Imperiall Standard: For as *Naturalists* report.

port. that Sovereigne of Birds, renewes his Age; so Hee seemed to himselfe growne young again: as if the Heavens had bestowne upon him, new Shoulders for new Burdens. And seeing it was their pleasure, to elect him to the place, he promised to rescue Right out of the Paws of Oppression, to be the only *Master of requests*: so that all complaints, should have free Access to him, and, if just, Redresse from him. But especially he would be Carefull of his owne Conversation, intending, (Grace assisting him,) to have a *Law in his owne example*. In a word, his speech was all excellent good in it selfe, save for this only fault, that not one syllable thereof, was either truly intended or really performed.

14. The Solemnities of his Coronation were performed in

great State, with much Pompe  
and Expence; And wee may  
X observe, that the *Coronations* of  
usurpers, are generally more  
gorgeous in their Celebrations,  
than those of lawfull Princes.  
For usurpers, out of excessive  
joy of what they have undeser-  
vedly gotten, care not what  
Cost they lavish. Besides, Cere-  
monies are more substantiall to  
them, to tell the world what  
they are, who otherwise would  
take lesse notice of them, as not  
intituled by any right to the  
place they possess. Whereas Kings,  
on whose Heads Crowns are  
dropt from Heaven, by lineall  
descent, often save superfluous  
Charges, at their Coronation,  
as being but a bare Ceremony,  
deriving or adding no right  
unto them, but only clearing  
and declaring the same to others.

15 The noise of the peoples  
Shouts,

Shouts, did alarm young *Alex-*  
*ius*, which hitherto was fast slee-  
ping in some obscure Corner, and  
little dream't, that meane while,  
an Empire was stolen away from  
him. But now coming to *Andro-*  
*nious*, he publickly congratulated  
His happinesse, & with a smiling  
Countenance, embraced him, as  
heartily glad, that he had gotten  
so good a Companion in so great  
an employment. Wee read, that  
in the Country of *Lithuania*, there  
is a peculiar Custome that mar-  
ried men have *Adjutores Tori*, X  
*Helpers of the marriage bed*,  
which, by their Consent, lye with  
their wives; and these Husbands  
are so farre from conceiving ei-  
ther Hatred or Jealousie against  
them, that they esteeme them  
their principall friends. Surely  
the Beds in that Country are  
bigger than in other places:  
seeing amongst all other Nati-  
D 4 ons,

ons, a wife is a Vessell, where-  
in the Cape-Merchant will  
not admit any Adventurers  
to share with him. It seemes, *Alexius*  
was one of this *Lituanian*  
Temper, that could accept a  
Partner in his Empire, tickled  
with joy at the Shewes and So-  
lemnities of his Coronation,  
(and well might hee laugh till  
his heart did ake,) though some  
did verily thinke, that amongst  
all the Pageants there presented,  
he himself was the strangest, and  
most ridiculous spectacle. As  
for *Xene* the Empresse, shee ap-  
peared not at all in publike, be-  
ing pensive at home, having al-  
most wept out her owne Eyes,  
because *Protosebastus* had his bo-  
red out.

16. Next very day, in all Pat-  
ents and publick Receipts, their  
Names were transposed. First,  
*Andronicus*, and then *Alexius*,  
this

this reason being rendred, that 1180.  
it was unfitting that a youth  
should be preferred before so  
grave, and Reverent an old  
Man. Or rather, because, as in  
Numeration, the Figure is to be  
put before the Cypher. Here  
some of the friends of *Alexius*  
propounded, to stop the ambi-  
tion of *Andronicus*, before the  
Gangrene thereof spread fur-  
ther; seeing what he received,  
did not satisfie, but enlarge his  
proud breast, prompting new  
thoughts unto him, and wide-  
ning his heart for higher desires.  
The motion found many to  
praise, but not to practice it;  
none would doe, what all desired  
were done. The younger sort  
conceived, that this office, be-  
cause dangerous, was most pro-  
per for old men to undertake,  
who need not to bee thrifty of  
their lives, seeing it was too late  
to

to spare at the Bottoms. Old men were of the opinion, it best becomed the Boldnesse & Activity of Youth; and such as were of middle Age, did partake of the Excuses of both. Thus in a Project that is apparently desperate, even those who are proudest on their termes of Honour will bee so humble, as in modesty to let meaner men goe before them.

17. As for the *Lords of the Combination*, (who first procured *Andronicus* his coming to *Constantinople*,) they found themselves, that they now had farre over-shot the Marke they aimed at. For they intended onely to use him for the present, to humble and abate the Pride and power of *Protesebastus*. Which done, they meant, either wholly to remove, or warily to confine him.



him. But now what they chose for Physick must be given them for daily food : and wofull is the condition of that man, who, in case of necessity, taking hot water to prevent Swooning, must ever after drinke it for Beverage, even to the burning out of his Bowells. For *Andronicus*, though he came in as a Tenant at will, would hold his place in Fee to himselfe and his *Helres*. And whereas the aforelaid LORDS promised themselves, if not Advancement to new Assurance to their old Offices; they found themselves prefer'd to nothing but neglect and contempt : neither intrusted in the Advice, nor imployed in the Execution of any matters of Moment.

18. Indeed *Andronicus* did loath the sight of those Lords, as Debtors doe of Bailiffes, as  
if

if their very looks did arrest him to pay for those Grand favours which he had formerly received from them, brought by their helpe from banishment, to power and wealth in the City. Nor would he make use of them, as too sturdy to bee pliable to his Projects; standing on their former deserts and present Dignities; but employed those *Officers* of his owne planting, which might be easily wreathed to all purposes, being base *up-starts*, depending on his absolute Pleasure. And as he used these alone, so these onely in matter of *Execution*: who taking himself, (and therein not mistaken) to be sole friend to himselfe, would not impart his Counsells to any one, being wont to say, that Ships sinke as deep with one, as with one hundred *Leaks*.

19. Wee will conclude this  
Book

Book with an Independent Story, hoping the *Reader* will take it as wee finde it. There was a noted Begger in *Constantinople*, well known to the people thereabouts, ( as who had almost worne the Thresholds of Noble mens doores, as bare as his owne cloathes ) an exceeding tall, raw-bon'd Body, with a meagre, and lanke Belly, so that hee might have passed for *Famine* it selfe. This man was found begging about the lodgings of *Andronicus*, very late at night, at an unseasonable houre, except one would say, that men of his profession, as they are *never out of their way*, so they are never out of their time, but may seasonably beg at any houre, when they are hungry. Being apprehended at the Guard, and accused for a *Conjurer*, ( his ugly face being all the Evidence against him, )

*Andro-*

*Andronicus* delivered him over to the indiscreet discretion of the People, to doe with him as they pleased. These wilde Justicers, without legall prooffe, or further proceeding, for *Almes*, bestowed on him a Pile of *Wood*, and a great fire, where they burnt him to *Ashes*, whose fact might justly have intitled him to a whipping Post, but not to a Stake.

20. Say not that this is beneath our History, to insert the Death of a Begger in the life of an *Emperour*. For all Innocents are equall in the Court of Heaven; And this poore man, who, whilst alive, was so loud at great Mens doores, for meat to preserve his life, his bloud may be presumed to bee as crying and clamorous at the gates of Heaven to revenge his death. For herein *Andronicus* taught  
the

*The Unfortunate Politician.*

*An. Dom.*

1180.

the People to bee Tyrannicall,  
a needlesse Lesson to such apt  
Schollers, who afterwards pro-  
ved Proficients herein, to the  
cost of their Teacher, as, God  
willing, shall be shewed here-  
after.


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**The**

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## The third Booke.

1.  **H**E newes of *Andronicus* his being chosen joynt-Emperour, no sooner arrived at the eares of *Maria Cesarissa*, but shee was drowned in a deluge of griefe : being beholden to nature that she could vent her selfe in teares ; seeing that sorrow, which cannot bleed in the eyes, doth commonly fester in the heart. And when her Nurse lovingly chid her, for excessive sadnesse, she pleaded her sex, which can scarce doe any thing without over-doing ; so that Feminine passions, must either

ther not be full, or over-flow.

2. But Anger, soon after having got the conquest of her owne grief, with furious speed she repaired to the place, where the *Lords of the Combination* were assembled, & ther she abruptly vented her self in these Expressions.

3. "Greece is growne barbarous,  
"and quite bereft of its former  
"worth; not so much as the ruines  
"of valor left in you, to reach forth  
"unto posterity, any signes that  
"you were extracted from brave  
"ancestors. Time was when the Gre-  
"cian Youth, adventured for the  
"Golden-Fleece, you may now ad-  
"venture for the Asses Skin, the  
"dull Embleme of your owne Con-  
"ditions: The merry Greek, hath  
"now drowned the Proverbe of  
"the valiant Greek. Tame Tray-  
"tors all! that could behold an U-  
"surper, Mate and check your  
"lawfull Emperour, and neither  
"wag hand or tongue in opposi-  
E tion.

*An. Dom.*

*Andronicus, or*

1181. "tion. Did my father Manuel  
"for this, impaire his owne, to  
"raise your estates? He made you  
"honourable and great: Oh that  
"hee could have made you grate-  
"full! The best is, your very sin  
"will be your punishment. And  
"though your practice hath beene  
"so base, your judgement cannot  
"be so blinde as to believe, that  
"your Channells of Nobility can  
"have a stream, when the Foun-  
"taine of Honour is dammed up,  
"by your unworthinesse.

3. The Lords, though by  
their Silence they seemed first to  
swallow her words, yet the ex-  
pression of *Tame Traitors* would  
not goe downe their Throats;  
the largest soules being narrow-  
est in point of credit, and soo-  
nest choakt with a disgrace. *Ma-  
malus* therefore in the behalfe of  
the rest; *Madam* (said he) suffi-  
ceth it now for us, barely to deny  
your



your speech. Had you been a man, we should have proceeded to defie the Speaker. What your passion, now condemnes in us for base; your judgement will not onely acquit, for right, and approve, for safe: but even commend for honourable, and advantageous for our Master Alexius. Our Lives and Lands, are at the sole dispose, and the cruell mercy of our enemies. We are instantly undone, if we whisper the least and lowest syllable of Loyalty, and utterly disabled from any future service to Alexius. We conceive it therefore better, for a time, to bow to our foes, rather than to bee broken by them: To spare in words, and spend what wee please, in thoughts. We want not a will, but wait a time, to expresse our Reallity to the Emperour, with most safety to our selves, and effect for him, in a season, least subject to suspicion.

5. Pacified with these words, she was contented to attend the performance of the Promise, in time Convenient; though never living so long, as to behold it, being prevented by violent Death. For now *Andronicus* began freely to rage in Innocent blood, cutting off such Nobles as hee thought would oppose him. Something like truth was alledged against them, to stop the Clamours of the multitude. And Power never wants pretences, & those legall, to Compasse what it doth desire. They were indicted of Conspiracy against *Andronicus*; and Knights of the Post, (of the Devils owne dubbing) did depose it against them. Yea, silence was not enough to preserve mens Innocence: some being accused that their Noses did wrinkle, or their Eyes winke, or their Fore-heads frowne,

frowne, or their Fingers snap  
Treason against *Andronicus*.

6. In this his Epidemical cruelty,  
it was much, that a famous Iester  
of the Court escaped his furie. Of  
this Fellow, his body downwards  
was a Foole, his Head a knave,  
who did carefully note, and cunningly  
vent, by the priveledges of  
his Coate, many State-Passages,  
uttering thē in a warie twilight,  
betwixt sport & earnest. But be-  
like, *Andronicus* would not break  
himselſe by stooping to so low  
Revenge, and made Conscience  
in breaking the antient Charter  
of Iesters, though wronging the  
Liberty of others, of greater Con-  
cernment.

7. Of such as were brought  
to Publicke Execution, it was  
strange to behold, the difference  
of their demeanour. Some, who  
were able to be miserable, with  
an undaunted minde, did be-  
come their afflictions, and by

their Patience made their miseries to smile, not bowing their Soules beneath themselves, only appealing for Iustice in another world. Others did foolishly rage, and ramp, mustring whole Legions of Curces, as if therewith to make the Axe turne Edge. And then seeing no Remedie but Death, their Soules did not bow by degrees, but fell flat in an instant; of Lions, turning Calves, halfe dead with feare, received the fatall stroake of the Executioner. So many were confusedly huddled to death, it is hard to ranke them in order, only wee will insift on some principall Persons,

8. First, *Maria Cesarissa*, and her husband (whether it was Conscience or Manners, not to part man and wife;) And because *Andronicus* durst not, for feare of the People, bringe them to publick

publick death, their *Physitian* was brib'd with Gold, which he conceived cordiall for himselfe; And thereupon he did quickly purge out both their Soules by Poyson, (an unsuspected way,) which robs men of their lives, } and yet never bids them to stand.

9. Next followed *Xene* the Mother Empresse being accused of high Treason for attempting to be tray the City of *Belgrade*, to *Bela* King of *Hungarie*. A pack't councill condemn'd her to death, which though otherwise vitious, was generally bemoan'd, as most innocent in this particular. But, *Andronicus* the Emperour, cunningly derived the whole hatred hereof, on yong *Alexius* (whose Power he never us'd, or owned, but onely to make him the Cloak-father for odious Acts) vrging him to signe the warrant, for her execution. In the

the stout refusall whereof, *Alexius* shew'd more Constancy then was expected to come from him, clearely answering all Arguments, herein shewing himselfe a childe in *Affection*, and more then a childe in *Judgement*. Whereupon some ground their presumptions, that his soule deserved better breeding, and that hee was not to bee censured for weaknesse of Capacity; but rather his friends to bee condemned, for want of care; and himselfe to bee bemoaned, for lack of Education. Hee flatly told *Andronicus*, that *Nero* was recorded Monster to all Ages, for killing his Mother; And that hee would never consent to her death, that gave him life.

10. But he proceeded to aggravate the Crime of *Xene*, *Belgrade* being such a piece of strength

strength, that it was a whole Province in effect. And though but a Towne in *Bulke*, was a Kingdome in *benefit*. All *Greece* awfully attending the fortune thereof. Hee minded *Alexius*, that *Fathers of Countries*, should know no *Mothers*; but that *Soveraignes* affections are onely of kin to the good and safety of their Subjects. Besides, (saith he) you need not scruple so much at her death, who is dead whilst living, and hath been many yeares drowned in *Luxurie*. So that what was cruelty in *Nero*, will be Exemplary Justice in you.

11. *Alexius* rejoyned, that if his Mother *Xene* was so drowned in *Luxurie*, the more need she had to drowne her sins in penitent Teares, except it were conceiv'd Charity to kill both her soule and body. That Prin-  
ces

ces werenot to owne private affections, where they were destructive to the Common good, but might and must, where they consisted with the publike safety. Or else to become a *Prince*, would be all one, as to leave off to be a *man*. Grant *Belgrade* a strong Place; it was still in their owne possession, and her intended Treason succeeded not. And therefore he conceiv'd it a middle and indifferent way, that she should be depriv'd of liberty for *Plotting* of Treason, and yet be permitted to live because the Plot took no effect: A Cloister should be provided, whereto she should bee close confin'd, therein to doe Pennance for her former enormities. And in this Sentence, he conceived that hee impartially divided himselfe betwixt the affection of a Childe, and



and severity of a Judge.

12. But *Andronicus* who was resolved to have no denyall, highly commended him for his filiall care of his Mothers soule: Yet, said he, for the benefit thereof, fifty Friars at my own proper charges, shall bee appointed, which after her Death, Night and day, shall dauly pay their prayers in her behalfe, whose suffrages are as well knowne above, as her Prayers are strangers there: it being to bee presumed, that whilst shee is living, the Heavens will be deafe to her, which so long have beene dumbe to them. Speake not of her Project that it tooke no effect; for had it succeeded, none would have called it Treason, but have beheld it under a more favourable Notion. He minded *Alexius* that hee had sufficient power of himselfe, being joynt-Emperour to put her to death, but

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but that he would in no case deprive him of this Peerelesse Opportunity of Eternizing his memory to Posterity, and securing the State by his necessary Severity. For all hereafter would be deterred from attempting of Treason, as despairing of pardon, when they beheld the Exemplary justice on his own Mother.

13. *Alexius* still persisting in his denyall, *Andronicus* at last fell to flat menacing, yet so cunningly carryed it, that his threats did not seeme to proceed from any anger, but from love to the person, and griefe for the perverseness of *Alexius*. Hee protested he would no more break his sleep, he would steere the State no longer; Let even the Windes and the waves hereafter bee the Pilots to that crazie vessell. He call'd the Heavens to wit-

witnesse, ( before whom hee entred a Caveat to preserve his owne Innocence,) how he had tendred happinesse to *Alexius*, but could not force it upon him, who wilfully refused it. In a word, so passionate he was, and so violent was the streame of his importunity, that the young Emperour, either out of weaknesse, or wearinesse to swimme against it, was at last carryed away with the Current thereof, and subscribed the Warrant.

14. To divert whose minde from musing upon it, a solemne Hunting in the Countrey was contrived, that there he might take his pleasure. In a Forrest not farre off a stately Stagge was lodged, ambitious (as they told him) to fall by the hand of an Emperour, or else to bee dubbed an *Hart Imperiall*, if chancing to escape. All things being ready,  
*Alexius*

*Alexius* is carried thither; but withall, those are sent along with him, which hunted this Hunter, markt all his motions, learnt the language of his looks, and hands, with the different Dialects of his severall fingers, so that hee could not speake a word, or make signe to any of his faithfull servants, but presently it was observed, and if materiall, reported to *Andronicus*. None of his friends durst shew any discontent. If any was seen sadly to wag his head, it was a certaine signe that that head stood but loose on his shoulders, and by the next returne, the newes would bee, 'that 'twas fallen off: so miserable was the condition of this Prince, and of all his followers.

But *Andronicus* had a Hinde to hunt at home, and must provide

vide for the Execution of Xene.  
And now to enter the tender  
yeares of his sonne *Mannel*, for  
great Actions, he thought first  
to bloud him with an *Empresse*,  
in private delivering the War-  
rant unto him. Behold here an  
unexpected accident! This good  
Childe of a bad Father, (Grace  
can cut off the oldest, and stron-  
gest Entaile of Wickednesse) re-  
fused the Employment, alledg-  
ing, there was no such dearth of  
hangmen, that a Prince need  
take their Office; and that it  
was against his Conscience, her  
Crime being rather pack't than  
prov'd, seeing shee was never  
brought to answer for her selfe:  
Here-at his Father mad with  
rage, rated and reviled him.  
*Bastard, thou wert never true  
Eagles Bird, whose eyes are daz-  
led at the Sunne of Womans Beau-  
tie. What? doth thy Cowardice  
take*

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Andronicus, or

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take Sanctuary at Conscience? He never climbs a Throne that stands on such poore pretences. What if she never appeared to answer? where the fact it selfe doth Cry, it is needlesse for the offender to speake: Narrow-hearted foole! A Cottage is fitter for thee than an Empire. Have I pawned mine owne soule, to found thy greatnesse, and am I thus requited? and so abruptly brake off into weeping.

16. Manuel Modestly returned: I am sorry Sir, you should pawne your soule for my sake, but however I am resolved not to loose mine owne. Whosoever climbs a Throne without Conscience, never sits sure upon it. I had rather succeed to your private paternall possession, then to an ill-gotten Empire. Nor am I daz'led at the Lustre of her beauty, but at the clearenesse of her Innocence; all  
men

men being generally Compurgators for her Integrity herein. Employ me, and trie my valour in any other service. Command, and I will fetch the Lions onely beire out of his Den, both in sight and spight of Sire and Dam; onely herein I desire to be excused, and I hope deserve not to be accounted a Coward for fearing to commit a sinne. How much Andronicus was bemadded here-at, may easi-er be conceived, than exprest, to receive a finall repulse from his owne Sonne, insomuch as at the last he was faine to make use of Hagio Christophorites Stephanus, Captaine of the Guard (who alone of all the Lords of the Combination, stuck to him, and was respected of him) and hee verie fairely tooke order to dispatch her, stifling her (as some say) betwixt two Pillowes.

17. The next Newes which tooke possession of the Tongues

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and

and Eares of People, was the cruell and barbarous death of young *Alexius*: whilst, the vulgar did wonder that he dyed so soone, and the wise did more admire that he lived so long; and the difference was not great betwixt him that was now but a Ghost, and whilst living, but a shadow \*. *Basilus* went too far to fetch a fit Paralell out of the Roman Historie, to compare *Andronicus* and *Alexius* with old *Fabius* and sprightfull *Marcellus*; who might have met in the same Story farre nearer, (because later by 100 yeares) a more lively resemblance in the Consulship of *Julius Caesar* and *Bibulus*, whereof the one did all, the other dranke all.

\* *Vilef-*  
*pra. 2 lib.*  
*parag 9.*

18. The manner of *Alexius* his death was, that hee had his neck broken with a Bow-string; the punishment in that place, (as still amongst the Turkes) much used:



used:and in this *Tyrants* Reigne,  
the string did cruelly strangle  
more at home, than the Bow  
did valiantly kill abroad. This  
Bow-string ( to make a short  
digression ) was an Instrument  
whereon *Andronicus* used to  
play, and sportingly to make  
much Mirth and Musick there-  
on to himselfe, calling it *his me-  
dicine for all Malladies*. For  
whereas ( said he ) Purges were  
base, Vomits worse, Cupping  
painfull, Glisters immodest,  
bloud-letting Cruell; this Bow-  
string had all the opposite good  
qualities unto them. And the  
same did quench the heat of Fea-  
vers, draine the moisture of  
Dropies, cure Plurisies without  
piercing a veine, stay the Verti-  
go, heale the Strangurie, by  
opening the Urine, and onely  
stopping the breath. This being  
one base humour of *Andronicus*,  
(unworthy Civility and Chris-

tianity) to breake iests on men in miserie, just as they were to dye. As for the Corps of *Alexius* (on whom he had practised with his foresaid Medicine,) they were most unworthily handled, and dead Bodies, though they cannot bee hurt, may bee wrong'd, especially of such eminent persons.

19. Now to refresh the Reader a-mid'st so many murders, and Massacres; it will not be amisse, to insert an unexpected Marriage. *Alexius* left *Anna* an Empreffe Dowager. And some days after her husbands death, he address'd himself a Sutor unto her, being to encounter with invincible disadvantages. First he came reaking with the bloud of slaine *Alexius*. And what hope could hee have that shee would embrace that Viper, that had stung her other-selfe to death! Secondly the disproportion

tion of his Age, being past 70. and what motly colour'd Marriage, would it make to joyne his *gray* to *greene* ! his cold *November* being enough to kill her flourie *May*. Notwithstanding all this, he had formerly been so flesh't with fortune, he conceived he could never bee leane afterwards; and knew that in matters of this nature, confidence in attempting, is more than halfe the way to successe.

20. First, He possess'd himselfe of her judgement, and made her beleewe, that all his former undertakeings, were in service to her, grieving that *Alexius* did not valewe the *Pearle* he wore. He protested there was nothing about him, but his haire, which were dyed white, not by his Age, but by his Carefulnesse for her preservation. Then, He assaulted her affection, principally pressing that Argument, which was

never propounded to a meere woman, & returned with a denial, namely, assuring her of power & greatnes, promising she should be the Conduit, through which al his favours should passe, and all his people under his command, should be blest or blasted by her Influence, neither were gifts wanting, & those of the largest size, bestowed on her servants, (who promoted his cause) and the dullest Bodies worke on the most subtile Soules, by the mediation of such Spirits.

21. Now, whether it was out of Childishnesse, not being full fourteene, or out of feare, being farre from her friends, and her Person in his power; or out of pride, loath to abate of her former State; she assented to his desire. But to speake plainly, he sheweth himselfe to have store of leisure, and want of worke, who is imployed to finde a Root in

in Reason, for all the fruit that growes from Fancie: Sufficeth it, he loved him, affirming it, it was no wonder, that he should take a poore Ladies Affections captive, whose valour in the Field, had subdued the most manly of his Enemies.

22. To make this story passe for probable, we may follow it, with the like in our English Chronicles. RICHARD the Third, though not so old, more ugly, then ANDRONICUS, obtained the love, and was married to the Countesse of Warwicke, the Relictt. of Prince Edward (sonne to King Henry the sixt) whom the same Richard had slaine at Tewsbury, he knowing so much, and he not denying it, They were Namesakes, both *Ann's*, and when they had cast up their Audit, both, I beleeve, might equally boast of their Bargains.

23. But *Andronicus* who was never unseasonably Amorous (but had his Lust subordinate to his Ambition and cruelty, when they gave him leave, and leasure to prosecute his pleasure) was not softened by the Dalliance of Marriage, to remit any thing of his former Tyranny. He protested that he counted the day lost, wherein he had not kill'd or tortur'd some eminent Person: Or else, so *planett-struck* him with his frownes, that he enjoyed not himselfe after. He never put two men together to death after the same way; as not consisting with his state to weare one torture threed-bare, but ever appeared in exchange, & variety of new māner of punishments. And if any wonder, that there was not a generall insurrection made against this monster of mankind, to rend him from the Earth; Know that he had  
had

had one humour, that did much helpe him, in being sterne and cruell to Noble men ; but affable and courteous to poore people, and so still kept in with the vulgar. Besides, many stately Structures he erected, and sweetned his cruelties with some good acts for the Publick. Now, that we might not seem to have weeded the life of *Andronicus*, or to be a kin to those flies, which travelling by many fragrant Flowers, onely make their residence, on some sore, or Dung-hill, wee will recount some of his good deeds, and pittie it was, that they had not proceeded from a better Author.

24. Hee surveyed the Walls of *Constantinople*, and mended them, wheresoever the chiuks thereof did call for reparation. Hee pluckt downe all the buildings without (yet so, that the owners sustained no losse thereby)

by) for feare in case of an enemies invasion, those houses might serve them for Ladders to scale the City with more ease. Thus all *Constantinople* was brought within the compasse of her Walls, (as she remaines at this day) not like many ill proportioned Cities in *Europe*, which groane under over-great Suburbs (so that the Children over-top the Mother) and branch themselves forth into out-Streets, to the impairing of the root, both weakning and impoverishing the City it selfe. Hee bestowed great cost in adorning the *Porphyrie Throne*, which an Usurper did provide and beautifie, for a lawfull Prince to sit upon it. Hee brought fresh Water, (a Treasure in that place) through a Magnificent Aqueduct, into the heart of the City, which after his death, was spoiled out of spight (as private Revenge



venge in a furious fit; oft impaires the publike good) people disdaining to drink of his water, who had made the streets runne with bloud. His benefaction to the Church of forty Martyrs amounted almost to a new founding thereof, intending his Tombe in that place, though it was arrant presumption in him, who had denyed the right of Sepulture to others, to promise the Solemnity thereof unto himselfe.

25. But that which gained him the greatest Reputation far and neare, even amongst those that never saw his face, was, an Edict for the saving of Ship-wrackt goods. There was amongst the Greeks a constant practice, founded in Crueltie, and strengthened by Custome; that if a Vessell was discovered in danger of drowning, those on the shore, like

like so many ravenous Vultures, flockt about that Carcasse, to pick out the eyes thereof, the wealth therein. These made all their Hay in foul weather, which caused them not onely duely to wait, but heartily to wish for a Tempest: And as the wicked Tenants in the Gospel concluded to *kill the Heire that so the Inheritance might bee their owne*, These remorselesse men, to prevent future Cavills and clamours about the goods; dispatcht the Mariners, alwayes by wilfull neglecting their preservation, & too often by downe-right contriving their destruction. More cruell then the verie stocks and stumps of Trees, which growing by Rivers sides, commonly hang over the water, as if out of pity, tendring their service to such as are in danger of drowning, & stooping downe to reach their hands

hands to help them to the shore. Now, *Andronicus* taking this barbarous Custome into Consideration, forbad it, for the time to come, on most terrible penalties, (and this Lion, if enraged, would by his loudnesse, roare Hearing into the deafe) and enjoyned all to improve their utmost endeavours, for the preservation of their persons. Hence followed such an alteration, that shipwrack't goods, if floating to land, safely kept themselves without any to guard them. Men would rather blow their fingers, than heat their hands with a rotten Planke; rather goe naked, than cover themselves with a rag of Shipwrackt Canvas: It was ominous to steale the least inch of of a *Cable*, lest it lengthned it selfe into an *Halter* to him that tooke it. All things were preserved equally

qually safe, of what value soever, and untold *Pearle*, might lye on the Shore untoucht, like so many *Oyster-shells*. This dispersed the fame of his Justice and Mercy into forraigne parts : And as Sounds which are carried a-long by the Rivers side, having the advantage of hollow Banks, and the water to convey them, are heard sooner and quicker, then Sounds of the same lowdnesse, over the Land ; So the Maritim Actions of Princes, concerning Trading, wherein Strangers, as wel as their owne Native Subjects are interessed, report them to the world in a higher Tone, and by a quicker passage, than any Land-lockt Action of theirs, which hath no further influence, but onely terminates in their owne Kingdome. Yea this one ingratiating Decree of *Andronicus*, did set him

him up with so full stock with Reputation, that upon the bare credit thereof, might now runne on skore, the committing of many Murthers, and never have his Name once called to Account for any injustice therein.

26. And as the Sea-men by water, so the Husband-men by land (and those wee know have strong Lungs, and stout sides) cryed up the fame of *Andronicus*, because he was a great preserver of Tillage, and Corne was never at more reasonable rates than in his Reigne. Hee cast a strict eye on all Customers and Tax-gatherers, and (as evill Spirits are observed to walk much about silver Mines) so *Andronicus* did incessantly haunt all publique receivers of money; and if finding them faulty; oh excellent sport for the people to see how those Sponges were squeezed!

squeezed ! He allowed large and liberal maintenance to all in places of Judicature, that *want* might not tempt them to corruption. Thus, even the worst of Tyrants light sometimes on good actions, either stumbling on them by chance, or out of love (not of vertue, but) of their owne security. They are wicked by the generall *Rule* of their lives, and pious by some *Exceptions*, *just*, by fits, that they may be more safely *unjust* when they please. And hereby *Andronicus* advanced himselfe to bee tollerable amongst Man-kinde.

27. Wee could willingly afford to dwell longer under the Temperate Climate of his Vertues ; but Travellers must *on* their journey. Comming now to the *Torrid Zone* of his Fury, which indeed was not habitable: His Foes hee executed, because they

they were his foes ; and his friends , because they were his friends. For they that let out a Courtesie at Interest to a Tyrant , commonly lose the Principall : Witnesse *Conto-Stephanus*, the great Duke , Admirall of the Galleyes, who by betraying his trust , brought *Andronicus* to *Constantinople* , and now fairely had his eyes put out. As for *Georgius-Dissipatus*, *Andronicus* intended to roast him, being a Corpulent man, upon a Spit, affirming that such fat Venison wanted no Larding, but would baste it selfe, and meant to serve him up as a dainty dish in a Charger or Tray, to his Widdow, had not some intervening accident diverted it. He made a bloody Decree, which had a traine of indefinite, and unlimited extent, and would reach as farre as the desire of the

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measu-

measurer: namely, that all such of the nobility which were, now, or should hereafter, be cast into Prison; should bee executed without any legall Triall, with their Children and Kindred. Prince *Mannel*, (whose worst fault was, that *Andronicus* begat him) in vaine opposed this Decree, alleaging this to be the ready way for his Father to un-Emperour himselfe, by destroying that Relative Title, and leaving himselfe no Subjects.

\* Rom. 7.  
19, 20.

28. But *Andronicus* had found Scripture, whereby to justifie his Act, and brought St. \* *Paul* for his Patron, whose practise and confession hee cited. For the Good that I would, I doe not; But the evill which I would not, that I doe. Now if I doe that I would not, it is no more I that doe it, but sinne that dwalleth in me. God keep



*The Vnfortunate Politician.*

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keep us from Apocrypha-Comments on Canonickall Scripture: send us his pure *Text* without the glosse of *Andronicus*, who, be-like, conceiv'd hee could not bee a perfect Tyrant, by onely torturing of men, except also he did rack Gods Word, reading Text from Con-text, and both, from their true intent.

29. This Decree startles such Lords of the Combination as were left alive, together with *Mamialus*, principall Secretary to the late Emperour, and *Alexius Ducas*, the most Active, but not nearest, Prince of the bloud. These, meeting together, much bemoaned themselves, till *Mamialus* counting such puling passion beneath Masculine Spirits, thus uttered himselfe.

30. *You late adorers of Andronicus, who did conceive it would pose the power of heavē to cure the*

State, save onely by his hand, bee  
your owne Judges, whether it be  
not just that they should dye of the  
Physicke who made a God of the  
Physitian. Diseases doe but their  
kind, if they kill, and, an evill ex-  
pected, is the lesse evill: But no such  
Torment as to die of the remedie:  
Onely one helpe is left us, if secret-  
ly and speedily pursued. We know,  
Isaacus Angelus by birth and  
merit is intituled to the Crowne.  
True, hee lives privately in a Co-  
vent, but worth cannot bee hid,  
it shines in the darke; and Great-  
nesse doth best become them to  
weare it, by whom it is found, be-  
fore it is sought for, as more deser-  
ved then desired by them: say not  
that he is of too milde a dispositi-  
on; for, his soft temper will make  
the better Pultis for our sore necks,  
long gauled with the yoke of Ty-  
ranny. And seeing we have thus  
long been unhappy unæder the ex-  
tremities

*tremities, the childe-hood of Alexius, and old yeares of Andronicus, let us try our Fortunes under the middle age of Isaacius: And no doubt we shall light on the blessed meane and happy temper of Moderation.*

31. The motion found entertainment beyond beliefe. And yet *Alexius Ducas* offer'd it to their consideration; that so meek a *Dove* would never make good *Eagle*: Giving a Character, how a Prince should be accomplished with valour and experience, by insinuation designing himself. It is pleasant to heare a proud man speaking modestly in his owne praise, whilst the Auditors affect a wilfull deafenesse, and will not heare his whispering, and slen-ting expressions, till at last hee is faine to hollow downe-right *Selfe-flattery* into their Eares. Here it fared thus with *Ducas*,

who thereby only, exposed himselfe to contempt: and perceiving no successe, zealously concurr'd with the rest for advancing of *Isaacius*. All necessary particulars were politiquely contrived, each one had his taske appointed him: some, to seize on the ships, others, to secure the Pallace, make good the great Church; and the whole modell was exactly methodized, considering the vast Volume thereof, which consisted of many persons of qualitie therein ingaged.

The

*The unfortunate Politician.*



**The Fourth Booke.**

1. **B**UT, great designs, *An. Dom. 3*  
like wounds, if they *XII 82*  
take Arie, corrupt.  
This project, against  
*Andronicus*, could not be covert-  
ly carried, because consisting of  
a medly of persons, of different  
tempers, and un-suiting soules,  
having private intents, to them-  
selves, not cordiall, uniting their  
affections, but only Freinds, *for*  
*the time being*, against the com-  
mon Foe: So that, through the  
Riftes, and chinks of their se-  
verall aimes and ends, which  
could not be joynted close to-  
gether,

gether, the vigilancie of *Andronicus* did steale a glymps of their designe, apprehensive enough to light a candell for himselfe to form the sparke of the small discoverie.

2. And now, let him alone to prevent their proceedings, by cutting both them and theirs off (that no mindfull heire might succeed to their spite) and that with all possible speed; for hee steer'd his actions, by the compas of that character, which one made of him, as followeth.

*I love at leasure, favours to bestow:  
And tickle men by dropping kindnesse slow,  
But my revenge, I in one instant spend,  
That moment which begins it, doth it end.*

*Halfe doing undoe's many, 'tis a sinne  
Not to be soundly sinfull; to begin,  
And tire; I'll do the work. They strike in vain,  
Who strike so, that the stricken might complain.*

3 *Mamalus* was the first who was brought to Execution, on this

this manner. A mighty fire was made, and to provoke the Ty-  
rannie thereof (as if that pure  
Element of it selfe had been too  
fine and slender, effectually to  
torment him) they made the  
flame more stiffe, and stuffie, by  
the mixture of pitch and brim-  
stone. Then *Mamalus* was  
brought forth starke naked, in-  
somuch that all ingenuous be-  
holders, out of a modest Sympa-  
thy, conceived, that they saw  
themselves naked, in seeing him:  
and therefore, (as much as lay  
in their power) they covered  
him, by shutting their eyes.  
When the Souldiers with Pikes,  
were provided to thrust *Mamalus*  
into the fire, whilst many Spec-  
tatours durst not expresse their  
pittie to him, out of pittie to  
themselves; lest commiserat-  
ing of him, should be under-  
stood complying with him; but  
were

were cautious to confine their Compassion, within the Compasse of their brest, that it should not sallie forth, into their eyes, and outward gestures.

4. Betwixt this Dilemma of Deaths, the sharpe Pikes of the Soldiers on the one side, & furie of the fire, on the other; he preferred the former, not as most honourable, and best complying with a militarie Soule; (not being at leasure alasse, in time of torment, to stand on termes of credit,) but as least painfull. But the Soldiers denied him this choyce, and fore'd him into the fire; and then hearing his Shreekes, even those who refus'd, out of favour, to give any pitie to his person, could not, out of justice, denie the payment of some compassion, (bound there-unto, by the Specialtie of Humanitie) unto his miserable condition.



5: Meane time, *Andronicus* was a Spectatour, tickling himselfe with delight, only offended, that the sport was so short, and *Mamalus* dead too soone. The stench of whose burning flesh ( offensive to others ) was a perfume to him, who had the *Roman-Nose* of Caligula, Nero, Domitian, and such Monsters of crueltie. And, as he pleased his owne Smell, with the Odour of Revenge; his Sight, with beholding the execution; his Eare with the Musicke of his enemies dying Groanes: So, there wanted not those that wish't, that his other Senses, were also imployed, according to his deserts, his Touch, and Taste, that they might feelingly partake of the torture of the fire. Thus died *Mamalus*, scarce twenty four yeares of Age, before the Bud of his youth had opened into a flower; having

ing in his parts, not only promises, but some Assurance, that the hopes of his future worth, should be plentifully performed, had not this untimely Accident prevented it.

6. *Lapardas* acted next on the Scaffold, though not condemned to death, but to have his Eyes bored out: His Extraction was Noble, State Greate, Pride greater; to maintain which, he contrived the Advancing of *Andronicus* to the Throne: the under ground Foundation of whose Greatnes, was closely laid, by *Lapardas*, whil'st he left the vilible Structure thereon, to others. Like a Mole he conveyed his train, closely spurring on *Basilius* (who posted of himself,) to Act in odious Projects, whil'st himselfe sculk't unseen; hoping, if matters held, to be rewarded by *Andronicus*, for his secret Service; if they miscaried, to provide for his own safety; seeing

seeing none could challenge him,  
of any appearing open ill Ac-  
tion, wherein he was engaged.

7. But quickly he fell off of  
his speed in serving *Andronicus*,  
whether, because he conceived  
his deserts found not a propor-  
tionable Reward : or, because he  
bare a love to the person of  
*Alexius* : or, because he was not  
perfectly bad, and fainting in  
the way of wickednesse, could  
not keep pace therein, with the  
fast and wide strides of *Andro-  
nicus*: or, which is most probable,  
he slowly perceived his Errour,  
that Tyrants plucke downe those  
staires, whereby they ascend to  
their greatnesse : and then, too  
late, began to unravell, what he  
weaved beforer. True it was, he  
had assisted *Andronicus*, so long,  
that he had offended all the side  
of *Isaciuss*, and had deserted  
him so soone, that he dis-ingaged  
all the partie of *Andronicus*, and  
so

so was unhappy, not to have the cordiall Affections of either.

8. On the Scaffold hee spake little, expecting that the paine would kill him, confessing he ow'd a Death, to Nature, and a violent Death, to Justice, and forgave all the world, save his owne selfe. Beholding the Sunne; Farewell (said hee) Life of my life, my night must bee at my noone; and then laying his hands on his eyes: Must I loose you thus? was it because I shot forth wanton Glances? Or, beheld Rivalles, with envious looks? Or, adored the Shine of Gold; that I must thus lose you? Or, was it, because I acted in a darke way, to advance the crueltie of a Tyrant; that now all my endeavours are seene by the world, and I must be blinde? However, Gods justice appears clearest to mee, in the losse of my Eyes. Thus was Lapandas tortu-

bad  
ol



red

red: and though some may think that *Andronicus* swerved from his Principle, taking away onely light, not life, from him, and thereby rather more enraging him *for*, than wholly disabling him *from*, revenge; yet wee may bee assured, that Tyrant did never so doe his workes by the halfe, but that hee strook out their *Teeth*, whose *Eyes* hee bored out, so securing their persons, that he put them past power of doing him mischief.

9. During this raging cruelty of *Andronicus*; wee may commend, in *Theodorus* the Patriark, rather his succeſſe, than Policie, (his ſimple goodneſſe being incapable of the later) who ſeaſonably withdrew himſelfe from *Constantinople*, to a private place he had provided in the Iſle of *Terebynthus*: here hee had built  
him

him an handsome house, equally distant from Envy and Contempt, *Bravery* and *Basenesse*, so that if *Securitie* and *sweetnesse* had had a mind to dwell together, they could not have found a fitter place for that purpose. Severall Reasons moved him to his speedy removall, besides the avoiding the fury of *Andronicus*. First, because *Basilins* undermined him at the Court in his Patriarkship, *Theodosius* being absent thence, when present there; bearing onely the name and blame, when the other had the power and profit thereof.

io. Secondly, to avoid the sight of People, conceiving every Eye which did behold, did accuse him, as a principall cause of their miseries, for helping *Andronicus* to the Empire. In whom *Theodorus* had been  
strangely

strangely mistook, as the best men are soonest deceived with the painted Piety, and pensive looks of Hypocrites, counting all Gold that shines, all sooth, that is said; betraid by their owne charitie into a good opinion of others. Lastly, it grieved him to see ignorance and impiety so rampant, base hands committing dayly Rapes on the Virgin *Muses*; so that they might now even ring out the *Bell*, for dying learning, and sadly toll the knell for gaping Religion. Wherefore, as *Divines* solemnly observe, to goe off of the *Bench*, just before the sentence of condemnation is pronounced upon the Malefactor; so this Patriark, perceiving the City of *Constantinople*, Cast, by her owne guiltinesse, and by the confession of her crying sinnes against her self; thought it not fit for him to stay  
H there,

there, till divine Justice should passe a finall fatall doome upon the place, (which he every minute expected) but embraced this private opportunity of departure.

11. Soon after his retiring, he ended his life: we not enquire into his decease, if wee consider his age, accounting now fourescore and foure Winters. And well might his yeares bee reckoned by Winters, as wanting both Springs, and Summers of Prosperity, living in constant affliction. And yet the last foure yeares, made more wounds in his heart, than all the former, plow'd wrinkles in his face. He dyed not guilty of any wealth, who long before, had made the poore, his Heires, and his owne hands, his Executors. After hearty Prayers, that Religion might shine when he was set, falling  
into



*The Unfortunate Politician.*

into a pious Meditation; hee *An. Dom.*  
went out as a *Lampe*, for lack of 1182.  
Oyle: no warning Groane was  
sighed forth to take his last fare-  
well, but even he smiled him-  
selfe into a Corps; enough to  
confute those, that they bely  
death, who call her *grim* and  
*grizely*; which in him seemed  
lovely and of a good Complexi-  
on. The few servants hee left,  
proportioned the Funerall, ra-  
ther to their Masters Estate, than  
Deserts, supplying in their sor-  
row, the want of Spices and  
Balme, which surely must bee  
somuch the more pretious, as  
the Teares of men are to bee  
preferr'd before Gums, which are  
but the weeping of Trees.

12. The Patriarks place was  
quickly supplied by *Basilus* the  
Bishop, so often mentioned, pre-  
ferred to the place by the Em-  
perour. A *Patron* and *Chaplain*

excellently met ; for what one made Law, by his *List* ; the other endeavoured to make Gospel, by his *Learning*. In stating of any Controversie, *Basilins* first studied to find out, what *Andronicus* intended or desired to doe therein : and then, let him alone to draw that Scripture, which would not come of it selfe, to prove the lawfulnessse of what the other would practice. Thus, in favour of him, he pronounced the legality of two most incestuous matches ; and this Grecian *Pope*, gave him a dispensation to free him from all Oathes of Allegiance, which hee had formerly sworn to *Manuel* or *Alexius* : for this was the Humour of *Andronicus*, to have Religion along with him, so farre as it lay in his way, courting the company of pious pretence, (if possibly they might be procured) to coun

countenance his designs : But in case they were so foule, that no glosse of Justice could be put upon them ; hee disclained that Pietie which would not befriend him, and impudently acted his pleasure in open opposition of all Religion.

13. But whilst this *Basilins* was thus hot about his secular affaires ; there wanted not an aged Hermite, who took him to taske, and soundly told him his owne, though it made but small impression in him. Meeting him at advantage ; *Hermite*, you know, saith he, hate both *Luxury & Complement*. In plain truth, I must chide you, that seeing earth is but your *Inne*, and heaven your *Home* ; you mistake the first, for the latter. *Mans soule* is so intent on its present object, that it is impossible, it should attend two callings at the same time, but must

needs make default in the pursuance of one of them. Your temporall intermeddling draws the envy of the Laity, for whose love you should rather labour. Nor are you stor'd with forraign Observations, really to enable you for such undertakings. Say not that you may meddle with temporall State-affaires, and yet not entangle your selfe with them, seeing the world is such a Witch, it is impossible to doe the one without the other. Observe those Clergy-sticklers on the Civill Stage, and you shall seldome finde them Crowned with a quiet death. Remember your Predecessour Chrysostome, who did onely Pray, and Preach, and Read, and Write, thereby made happy in the despight of his Enemies: For though twice expell'd his Patriarkship, hee was twice restor'd with greater honour: so that it  
was

was not want of Policy, which lost,  
but store of Piety, which caused  
him to recover his place againe.  
I speake not this, out of any re-  
pinning at the lustre of your pre-  
ferment, who envy outward Ho-  
nour no more than the shining of a  
Glo-worme, but meerely out of love  
to your person, and desire of your  
happinesse.

14. But Basilus, in some pas-  
sion returned, I perceiue you are  
lately broken loose out of your  
Cell, which makes you more fierce  
and keen, like Hawkes when they  
are first un-hooded, and newly re-  
stored to the light. Know, Sir,  
one may well attend two Callings,  
if they bee sub-ordinate, as the  
meanes and the end. All my secu-  
lar Businesse is in order to the  
good of the Church. The love of  
the Laity unto us, without some  
awe mingled with it, can neither  
be long-lasting, or much service-  
able.

able. My Education hath admitted me into generall Learning, and made mee capable of any employment. I deny not the World to be a Witch, but I know how to arme my soule with holy Spells against all her Inchantments. Whereas you say, one cannot meddle with worldly matters, but must intangle himselfe therewith, it is all one, as if you should affirme, that a temperate man cannot eat meate but he must surfet. Proofoes from the event, argue not the justice or injustice of the Act; and nothing can be inferred from the ill successe of our meddling in secular affaires. To your instance of Chrysostome, I oppose the example of Augustine Bishop of Hippon, who set in full brightnes, and yet kept a Court in his owne house, where he umpir'd and decided all temporall controversies. You trample on that which you call

call pride in me, with that which  
is so in your selfe. And all this  
proceeds out of spight, because you  
cannot turne your Cowle into a  
Mitre.

15. But *Basilus* was deafe to  
all these perswasions, and joy-  
ning with *Hagio-christophorites*  
*Stephanus*, (chiefe Enginier for  
*Andronicus*) advanced all cruell  
designes. And now *Mamalus* and  
*Lapardus* being executed, all o-  
thers were posselt with a Panick  
feare: and no wonder when the  
string is broken, if the Beads be  
scattered. It being feared, that  
the Plot miscarryed, they strove  
to make themselves innocent, by  
first making others guilty. And  
yet it was vaine to take the pains  
who should start quickest, when  
they all met even at the Post:  
For *Andronicus* took order that  
they were all alike executed.

16. There were two of his  
Crea-

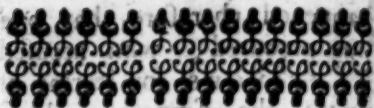
Creatures, Trypsycus, and Hagiochristophorites Stephanus, who onely fell out, who should bee most officious to him: Each had the other in jealousie, fearing his Rivall would engrosse the Emperour unto him. Especially, Stephanus, was fearefull of Trypsycus; understanding that Andronicus wrote private Letters unto him, stiling him, his *Beloved friend*, with other expressions, which spake more intimacy than Stephanus was willing to heare. This Trypsycus had been a dangerous Promoter in all company, Representing to Andronicus every syllable spoken against him, to the disadvantage of the speaker: and as one saith, (I conceive rather in the Language of the times, than his owne) Every man then was to give an account of every idle Word. It  
happe-



happened therefore that one was procured, who accused **TRYPHYCUS** for jeering of **JOHN** the Emperours eldest Sonne for Deformed, and that he scattered some loose expressions, bewailing the Miseric of the Times. Now, though the grear Service which **TRYPHYCUS** had done, might deserve to over-weigh so light an Offence; it cost him his Life, Confiscation of his goods, and Ruine of his Posterity.

17. Now bath **STEPHANUS** roome to Domineere alone in the favour of **ANDRONICUS**, sending him to seize on **ISAACIUS**, who for the present was got out of his Covent. It was past the skill of the Spaniel to catch him, who dived for the instant, but we shall find him in due time above water, and that to purpose.

THE



## The fift Booke.

*An. Dom.* 1.

1183,



SECURITY is the Mother of danger, & the Grand-mother of destruction. Let A N-

D R O N I C U S bee a prooffe hereof, who now, nearest to his ruine, grew most confident, as conceiving he had stopp't every cranny, where danger might creep in, and therefore in a bravery, he sent a defiance to Fortune her selfe, which notwithstanding, was returned with his owne speedy overthrow.

2. Yet could hee not justly complaine, that he was suddenly surpris'd, seeing Nature might seeme

seeme to have gone out of her way, to give him warning, and *Nemesis* did not hunt him so fast, but that she allow'd him faire Law to provide for himselfe, by several Prodigies which hapned at that time. But *Andronicus*, not onely against the full intent, but almost visible meaning, of the same Accidents, did make a jesting Construction of them, and and was deafe to the loud language of all ominous passages, as not relating unto him.

3. Being told of the apparition of a Comet, (no leiger-starre of Heaven, but an extraordinary Embassadour) portending his death, as some expounded it; he scoffingly replied, that hee was glad to see the heavens so merry, to make Bone-fires, for his Triumphs: And what was a Comet, but the Kitchin-stuffe of the aire, which blazing for a while

a while, would goe out in a snuffe : Adding, that that Starre might presage the fall of some Prince, that wore long haire, whereas, his was short enough. When another told him of an Earth-quake, which had lately happened ; *I am glad*, saith he, *that the Mother-Earth, sicke of the Collick, had so good a vent for a winde*: Being informed that the Statue of Saint Paul, (his Titulary Saint) was seene to weep ; he evaded the sad presage thereof, by distinguishing on Teares, there being an Harmony in their language, as bearing not onely different, but contrary Sences, proceeding either from Mirth or Mourning ; and therefore, that weeping might probably fore-shew good successe. In a word ; All serious and solemne Omens, he tuned to a jesting meaning, keeping himselfe

selfe constant to his first principle; *That, Fortune; when fear'd, is a Tyrant; when, scorn'd, is a Coward.* But, though hee unjustly perverted the sense of these Prodigies; the event did truly interpret them in his destruction.

4. For *Isaaci<sup>us</sup> Angelus* persecuted by the Executioner, fled into the great Church, (in those dayes, the *Sanctuary* at large for Innocents) where, making an Oration to the people, he exceeded Expectation, and himself; as if hitherto he had thriftily reserved his worth (a serious, others say, simple man) to spend it more freely when occasion required it. He spake not like those mercenary people, which make their tongue, their *ware*, and Eloquence, their *Trade*; but, he uttered himselfe so pathetically, that he did not court At-  
tenti-

tention, but command it. Hee made both his Innocence, and the cruelty of *Andronicus*, to appeare so plaine, that the people not onely afforded him, protection for the present; but also, bestowed on him Sovereignty for the future, and instantly elected, and proclaimed him, Emperour of Greece.

5. Stand wee here still, and wonder what should be the Reason, that *Andronicus* should suffer this *Isaaci*, next Prince of the bloud, so long safely to survive, who had cut off other Persons of lesse danger, & lower degree. Wee cannot ascribe it to his incogitancy, as inconsistent with his vast memorie, to forget a matter of such importance; lesse can we impute it to his Pitty, as if sparing him out of compassion: seeing that a Thred might  
 100

sooner hope to be prolonged under the knife of of *Atropos*, than any to finde favour under his impartiall crueltie. Was it not then because he had him in his power ?and counting himselfe sure to seize on him at pleasure; reserved him, as *Sweet-meat*, to close his stomach, when first hee had fed on severall Dishes of courser Diet : Or, because hee slighted him, as a narrow-hearted man, religiously bred in a Covent, unfit for a Campe, the object rather of his contempt, than feare ; for that his hands might seeme tied with his Beads, from being dangerously active, in the State. But, let us remove our wondring at this neglect of *Andronicus*, to make roome for our admiration of divine Providence, who confounded this Politician in his owne cunning. Thus the most expert Gamsters may sometimes over-see ; and,

Traitors, though they be carefull to cut downe all Trees, which hinder their ambitious Prospect; wil unawares leave one still standing, whereof their owne Gallowes may be made.

6. Immediately all the Prisons in the City were set open, and those petty sinks of dissolute people emptied themselves into a common Sewer, and became into a tumultuous Torrent. Headlong they haste to the Pallace of *Andronicus*, where, not finding him at home, they wreckt their spight upon that beautifull building, and sumptuous furniture therein. Should I insist upon particulars, all sorts of Readers would be fadded therewith. Ladies would lament the losse of so many Pearles and precious stones, whose very Cases were Jewells. Souldiers be-moane the spoyling of so magnificent an Armorie. But *Schol-*  
*lers*



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lers would be most passionate, to bewaile the want of that Librarie so full fraught with rarities, that nothing abated the Pretiousnesse, but the Plenty of them. Many Records, (the Staires whereby *Antiquaries* climbe up into the knowledge of former times) were torne in pieces, though wee need not believe them so old, as that some of them had escaped *Nash's* flood, and were now drowned in a popular Deluge.

Nothing was preserved whole and entire. Whether, because they pretended some Religion in Revenge, as not aiming, out of Covetousnesse, to enrich themselves, but, out of Justice, to punish the Tyrant; or because they thought the very *Goods of Andronicus*, were become evil, guilty of their owners faults; and therefore were

all to be abolished as execrable :  
yea, as if the very Chappell it self,  
which hee had built, had been  
un-hallowed, by the Prophane-  
nesse of the Founder ; with all  
the Utensils thereof, it was defa-  
ced. A stately Structure it was,  
ANDRONICUS not be-  
ing of their opinion, who concei-  
ving an holy horroure to live in  
darke and humble Cells ; fancie  
not Triumphant Churches, for  
feare that their Hearts bee there  
lost in their Eyes. But he profes-  
sed his Devotion to rise with the  
roofof the Church ; so that his  
soule seemed to anticipate hea-  
ven ; by beholding the Earnest  
thereof in a beautifull Temple.  
However, now his Chappell was  
layd flat to the ground ; and, a-  
mongst other things therein, of  
inestimable value, the Letter,  
which, by tradition, was reported  
to bee written by Christs owne  
hands,

hands, to *Abgarus* King of *Edessa*, then was embezeled. So irresistible is the Tyranny of a Tumult; and therefore, it may be all good mens Prayers, that the People may either never understand their own Power, or alwayes use it a-right.

8. *Andronicus*, as we said before, had secretly conveyed himselfe away. Who would not have thought, but that this great Fencer should have been provided of variety of Guards, against all the crosse blows of Fortune; at least, to have had some impregnable place, neare hand, to retire unto? Whereas hee had no other Policy to escape, than that poor shift, which the silly simple Have useth against the Hounds, by flying before them. Indeed, had the Conspiracy against *Andronicus*, been but locall, or partiall, so that hee had had any sound part

to begin on, he would probably  
have made resistance, (as *Phy-  
sians* must have some strength  
of Nature in their Patient, to  
practice on;) but the defection  
from him was so generall and  
universall, hee found not any ef-  
fectuall friend left him. Only  
hee had scrapt together a masse  
of Coyne, more trusting in mo-  
ney, than men, hoping, in for-  
raigne parts, to buy some friends  
therewith; knowing that Gold,  
if weight, is currant in all Coun-  
tries. Then taking *Anna* his Em-  
presse, and *Maraprica* his whore;  
with some few servants, he durst  
confide in, and the Treasure hee  
had formerly provided; he made  
speede, in a Pinnaee, through the  
black Sea, to the *Tauro-Scythians*,  
out of the bounds of his Em-  
pire, hoping there to live in  
quiet. And because we have men-  
tioned *Anna* the Empresse, wee  
can-

cannot passe her by in silence.  
For if one would draw a map of  
miserie, to paire like yeares, with  
like mis-hap, 'tis hard to finde a  
fitter Patterne.

9. Daughter shee was to the  
King of *France*, being married a  
childe (having little list to love,  
and lesse, to aspire) to the yong  
Emperour *Elexius*, whilst both  
their yeares, put together, could  
not spell Thirty. After this, shee  
had time too much, to bemoane,  
but, none at al, to amend, her con-  
dition, being slighted and neg-  
lected by her husband. Oft-times,  
being alone (as sorrow loves no  
witnessse) having roome, and  
leisure to bewaile her selfe, shee  
would relate the Chronicle of  
her unhappinesse, to the Walls,  
as hoping to finde pitie, from  
stones, when men prov'd unkind  
unto her. Much did shee envie  
the felicity of those Milk-maids,

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which each morning passe over the Virgin-dew, and Pearled-grasse, sweetly singing by day, and soundly sleeping at night, who had the priviledge freely to bestow their affections, and wed them, which were high in love, though low in condition: Whereas, Royall Birth had denyed her that happinesse, having neither liberty to chuse, nor leave to refuse; being compell'd to love, and sacrificed to the Politique ends of her potent Parents.

10. But *Anna*, unhappy at her first Voyage, hoped to better her Condition by a second Adventure; yet made more haste than good speed, marrying *Andronicus* some weeks after the death of *Alexius*. Surely there is an *Annus luctus*, A yeare of mourning, which the modestie of widdowes may doe well to observe, lest neglecting it in their widdowhood,

hood ; it be required of them afterwards, with Interest, in the ill successe of their second marriage. For, *Maraptica*, a proud Harlot ; but excellent Musician, jultled with *Anna* in the Emperours affection : ( and halfe an old Husband was too much for a young Lady to spare ) and in proceffe of time, prevailed to obtaine violent possession. The Empresse, knowing her selfe honest ; and amiable, stood on her Deserts ; not descending to beg that love, which shee conceived due unto her, but daring him to detaine it at his owne perill, seeing hee wronged himselfe in wronging of her, forfeiting his Troth, which he had publikely pledged unto her. But, the Curtizan, knowing that that love x needs Buttresses in Cunning, which hath no foundation in Conscience ; applyed her self in all

all particulars to bee complizant to the desires of *Andronicus*. This *Manoptica*, though shee had faire fine fingers to play on the Lute, had otherwise foule great Clutches, to snatch, graspe, and hold, whatsoever shee could come by. And knowing that shee had but a short Terme in the Tenement of her greatnesse, (subject both to the mortality and mutabilitie of *Andronicus*) and withall, that shee was not bound to reparations, therefore cared not what waste shee made; but, by wrong and rapine, scraped together a masse of money. Meane time, *Anna* was kept poore enough; who, whilst Maid, Widow, and Wife, (twice a Bride, before once a Woman) scarce saw a joyfull day; though borne of a King, and wedded to two Emperours.

11. But to returne to *Andronicus*,



nicus, who pursued after by his  
 guiltie conscience, found no rest  
 in himselfe: so that for <sup>many</sup> ~~unto~~  
 nights, sleep was a stranger <sup>unto</sup>  
 him. Hee that had put out other  
 mens eyes, could not close his  
 owne; and when Nature in him  
 starv'd, for want of rest, did at  
 last hungry snatch at short  
 slumbers. Dreams did more ter-  
 rife, than sleep refresh him. His  
 active fancy in the night did de-  
 cant on what hee had done be-  
 fore: Sometimes, the pale Ghost  
 of *Alexander* seemed with glowing  
 Pincers to torment him; other-  
 while, *Marcus Cicerone* scitche hot  
 burning Needles through his  
 side; and not long after, two  
 streames of reeking bloud see-  
 med to flow out of the eyes of  
*Lupardos*, wherein *Andronicus*  
 for a while seemed to swimme,  
 till, beginning to sinke, to save  
 himselfe, he caught hold on his  
 Pillow,

Pillow, and so did awake.  
 12. When awaked, his minde  
 was musing upon a Prophecie,  
 which some dayes since was deli-  
 vered unto him: For hee had  
 employed an Agent, unto one  
*Seth*, an old Conjuror, to know  
 of him what should be the name  
 of his next successour in the Em-  
 pire. Now, first a great *S.* was  
 presented in a Balon of wa-  
 ter; and next that, an *I.* but, both  
 so doubtfully delineated, that  
 they were hardly legible: done  
 on purpose for severall Rea-  
 sons. Because, it stood not  
 with the state of the Prince of  
*Darknesse*, to bee over-cleare in  
 his Acts; and those that vent bad  
 Wares love to keep blind shops:  
 Besides, obscurity added veneration  
 to his Oracles, and active Su-  
 perstitious Fancies, whet with  
 the difficulty of them, would be  
 sharpe-sighted to read more than  
 was

was written. But the maine was to save his owne credit, taking covert of Mysticall Expressions, that in case Satan should faile in his Answers, hee might lay the blame on mens understanding him.

13. Put then these two Letters together, *S. I.* and read them backwards *I. S.* by an *Hysterosis*, & take a part of the whole by a *Synecdoche*; (all favourable Figures must bee used, to piece out the Devills short skill in future Contingents) and then *Andronicus* was told by the Conjuror, hee had the name of his Successor. Aske mee not why *Hells Alphabet* must be read backward, let Satan give an account of his owne Couz'nage; whether out of an apish imitation of the Hebrew, which is read retrograde; or, because that ugly filthy Serpent, ~~answers~~ *Crawls Cancer-like,*

or

or to make his Answer the more  
*Enigmati*call, for the reasons a-  
 fore-said. *Andronicus* by this Is-  
 s. understood *I Saurus Cornu-*  
*nus*, who lately, by Usurpation,  
 had set up a Kingdom in the Isle  
 of *Cyprus*, and therefore alwayes  
 observed him with a jealous eye,  
 and now too late perceives his  
 error, and findes the Prophecie  
 performed in *Isaaci* Angelus.

14. Thus, those that are cor-  
 respondents with the Devill, for  
 such Intelligence, have need  
 when they have receiv'd the  
 text of his Answer, to borrow  
 his Comment too, lest otherwise  
 they mistake his meaning. And  
 men may justly take heed of Cu-  
 riosity, to know things to come,  
 which is one of the kernells of  
 the *forbidden Fruit*, and even  
 in our Age sticks still in the  
 throats of too many, even to the  
 danger of choaking them, if  
 it

it bee not warily prevented.

15. Hitherto, what disasters had happened to *Andronicus*, might partly be imputed to men, and second causes : Whereas now, divine Justice, to have its power praised in its punishments, seemed visibly to put out a hand from heaven ; and he wants eyes, that cannot, or shuts them, that will not, behold it. See now the Gally, wherein he sayled, having having all the Canvas thereof, imployed with a prosperous Winde, when suddenly it was checkt in the full speed, and beaten back with fowle weather into a small Harbour, called *Cbele*. Soon after, the windes serving againe, hee set forth the second time, and had not made many leagues, when *Neptune* with his Trident thrust him back againe, such was the violence of the Seas

Seas against him. A third time he set forth with a faire Gale, when instantly, the wind changing, forced him to returne. Here, what tugging, what Towing, what Rowing ! nothing was omitted, which Art, or Industrie, Skill, or Will, could performe : *Andronicus* dropping a shower of Gold to the Saylers, to reward the Sweat that fell from them. All in vaine ; For as, indeed, hee had offended the *Fire*, with the Innocents hee burnt therein : angered the *Aire*, with hundreds of Carkasses, which therein hee had caused to bee hanged : provoked the *Earth*, by burying men alive, in her Bosome ; So, most of all hee had enraged the *Water* against him, ( now mindfull of his Injuries ) by him made a Charnell-house,

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house, and generall Grave, into which, the body of the young Emperour ALEXIUS was cast, with thousands of his Subjects. God, herein to prevent all mis-constructions of Casualty (which otherwise men might fasten upon it,) and knowing that men are slow in their *Apprehensions*, and dull in their Memory to learne the Lessons of his Justice, here-iterated and repeated it three severall times, that the most blockish Scholler, might learne it perfectly by heart: *This is the worke of the Lord, and it may justly seeme marvellous in our eyes.* Thus ANDRONICUS was, the third time, sent backe to the place from whence hee came, and so to the place of Execution. For hee was no sooner come to the shore, but

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*Andronicus, or*

Servants, imployed by ISAACIUS, (who had way-laid all the Ports on the Blacke Sea) stood ready to Arrest him.

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**The**

---



*The Vnfortunate Polititian.*



**The Sixt Book.**

I. **A**NDRONICUS ha-  
having now left  
him neither Ar-  
my to fight, or  
legges to flye; (being in the pos-  
session of his Enemies) betook  
himselſe to his Tongue, be-  
moaning his Caſe, and with  
Teares begging their favour. But  
thoſe Eyes, which, weeping in  
jeſt, had mock'd others ſo of-  
ten, could not now bee truſted,  
that they were in earneſt. The  
ſtorme at Land was more impla-  
cable than the tempeſt at Sea.  
Two heavy Iron Chaines were

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put about his neck, (in Mettle and weight, different from them he wore before) and loaden with Fetters and Insolencies from the Souldiers; (who, in such Ware, seldome give scant measure) hee was brought into the presence of *Isaacius*. Here the most mercifull and moderate contented themselves with Tongue-revenge, calling him Dogge of uncleannesse, Goat of Lust, Tygre of Cruelty, Religious Ape, and Envies Basilisk. But, others pull'd him by the Beard, twitch't the haire left by Age on his head, and proceeding from depriving him of Ornamentall Excrements, dasht out his teeth, put out one of his eyes, cut off his right hand; and thus maimed, without Surgeon to dresse him, man to serve him, or meat to feed him, he was sent to the publike Prison amongst

mongst Theeves and Robbers.

2. All these were but the beginning of evill unto him. Some dayes after, with a shaved head crowned with Garlick, he was set on a scab'd Cammell, with his face backwards, holding the Taile thereof for a Bridle, and was led cleane through the City. All the Cruelties which he in two yeares and upwards, had committed upon severall persons, were now abbreviated and Epitomised on him, in as large a Character, as the shortnesse of the time would give leave, & the subject it selfe was capable of: they burnt him with Torches and Fire-brands, tortur'd him with Pincers, threw abundance of dirt upon him; and withall, such filthinesse, that the Reader would stop his Nose, if I should tell him the composition thereof; it is enough to say, that the

worst thing that comes from Man, was the best in the mixture thereof.

3. Such as consult with their Credit will bee cautious how they report *improbable Truthes*, fearing they will not be received for Truths, but rejected for improbable. Especially in this Age, wherein men resume their Libertie, conceiving it against the *priviledge* of their judgments, to have their Beliefe, (which should be a Voluntary) prest by the authority of others, to give credit to what beares not Proportion with Likely-hood. Could an old man (such as *Andronicus* was) passe the age of man, three-score and ten, who now onely lived by the *curtesie* of Death to spare him, endure such paine, three miles, through so populous a City? The Poets onely feigned *Atlas* to be weary of carrying

rying of Heaven; but, must not  
our *Andronicus* be either stifled  
for want of breath, or back-bro-  
ken with store of weight, under  
so much earth throwne upon  
him? And was it possible, that  
Hee, who, before these times,  
had one foot in the grave, should  
have the other not follow after,  
when driven with such crueltie?

4. To render this likely, we  
may consider; first, that it was  
the intent of the People, not to  
kill, but to torment him. Second-  
ly, when one Dish is to go clean  
through a Table of Guests, men  
are mannerly; all, take some,  
though none, enough. Besides,  
he was one of a strong Constitu-  
tion, whose Brawny flesh Na-  
ture had knit together with Hor- X  
ny Nerves. And yet, had hee been  
a weak man; a Candle with glim-  
mering light will burne long in a  
Socket, being thrifty of it selfe.

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Life was sweet to *Andronicus*,  
 under all those noisome smells;  
 and he would not part with it,  
 whilst hee could keep it. But  
 what was the maine, it was possi-  
 ble God might support his life,  
 either out of Justice, or mercie.  
 (And, wee read in \* Scripture,  
 of Men, that they shall desire to  
 dye, and death shall flee from  
 them.) If say yet of Justice, visibly  
 to acquit himselfe, in the eyes of  
 the world, by making such a  
 Monster, the open Marke for  
 Mans Revenge; or out of mer-  
 cy, giving him a long and large  
 time of Repentance, if hee had  
 the happinesse to make use  
 thereof

\* Revel. 9.  
 verse 6.

of

5. Behold here a strange Con-  
 flict, betwixt the Crueltie of the  
 People on the one side, & the Pa-  
 tience of *Andronicus* on the o-  
 ther; and yet an indifferent Um-  
 pire would adjudge the Victory  
 to

to the latter : No raging, no Raving, no Muttering, no Repining ; but swallowed all in Silence : Onely he cryed out, *Lord have mercy upon me : And, Why breake yee a braised Reed* I and sensible of his owne guiltinesse, hee seemed contented to passe his Purgatory here, that so hee might escape Hell hereafter.

6. After multitudes of other Cruelties, tedious to us to rehearse, (and how painfull then to him to endure ! ) hee was banged by the Heeles betwixt two Pillars : In this posture ; Hee put the stump of his right Arme, whose wound bled afresh, to his mouth, so to quench (as some suppose) the extremity of his thirst, with his owne Bloud, having no other moysture allowed him. When one ranne a Sword thorough his Back and Belly, so that his very Entralls were seen, and

and seemed to call (though in vaine) on the Bowells of the Spectators; to have some compassion upon him. At last, with much a-doe, his soul (which had so many doores opened for it) found a passage, out of his body, into another world.

7. Heare, how one of great

\* *Drexell*  
as upon e-  
ternity, 5.  
Considera-  
tion. p. 147

\* Learning, is charitably opinio-  
ned of his finall Estate, making  
this Apostrophe to his Ghost.  
*Oh, ANDRONICUS! Oh thou*  
*Emperour of the East! how much*  
*wast thou bound unto God, whose*  
*will it was, that for a few dayes*  
*thou shouldst suffer such things,*  
*that thou mightest not perishe for*  
*ever! Thou wast miserable for a*  
*short time, that thou mightest not*  
*bee miserable for all eternity. I*  
*make no doubt, but thou hadst the*  
*yeares of Eternity in minde, seeing*  
*that thou didst suffer such things*  
*so constantly, and couragiously.*

8. But



8. But doth not so strong charity argue a weak judgement? Despaire it selfe may presume of salvation, if such an-one was saved. How improperly did he usurp that Expression, comparing himselfe to a *\* Bruised Reed*, when, another Scripture-resemblance was more applyable unto him, of a *\* Bul-rush bowing downe his head*; onely top-heavy for the present, with sense of suffering, not inwardly contrited in heart, for the sinnes hee had committed. Must not true Repentance have a longer season to ripen it, and by workes ensuing, to avouch to the world the sincerity thereof? Insomuch that, of late, some affirme that the good Theefe on the Crosse did not then first begin, but first renew his Repentance, lately interrupted by a fellonious Act. Allow *Andronicus* for a Saint; and we shall

*\* Matt. 12.  
v. 20.*

*\* Isai. 58.  
v. 6.*

X

shall people Heaven with a new Plantation of Whores and Theeves. (how voluminous will the *Booke of Martyns* be, if Paine alone does make them!)

9. On the other side, we must be wary, how, in our Censures, wee shut Heaven-doore against any Penitents. Farre bee it from us to distrust the power of Gods mercy, or to deny the efficacie of true (though late) Repentance: the last groan which divorces the soule from the body, may unite it to God; though the Arme of his body was cut off, the Hand of his faith might hold. All that I will adde is this, if *Andronicus* his soule went to Heaven, it is pittie that any should know of it, lest they bee encouraged to imitate the wicked Premises of his life, hoping by his Example to obtaine the same happy Conclusion after death.

10. After his Execution, the tide of the Peoples fury did turne, who began to love his memory, and lament his Losse: Such as before were blinded with Prejudice against him, could now clearly see many good deeds he had done for the Publique, and began to recount with themselves, many Sovereigne Lawes, which hee had enacted: some bemoaned the misery which he had endured, as if his punishment was over-proportion'd to his deserts. Whether this pitie proceeded out of that generall humour of men, never to value things till they are lost; or, because their revenge had formerly surfered upon him, & now began to disgorge it selfe againe; Or, which is most probable, this Compassion arose from the mutability and inconstancy of humane Nature, which hates alwaies to be imprisoned

soned in one and the same minde; but being in constant Motion through the Zodiac of all Passions, will not stay long in the same *signe*; and sometimes goes from one Extremity to another.

X II. By this time *Isaacius* was brought by *Basilus* the Patriarch unto the Throne, and placed thereon with all solemnity: then the Crowne was put upon his head, on the top whereof was a Diamond-Crosse, (greatnesse and Care are twins) which *Isaacius* kissed: *I welcome thee*, said he, *though not as a stranger*, who have been acquainted with Crosse's from my Cradle: Thou art both my Sword and my Shield; for hitherto I have conquered with suffering. Then weighing the Crowne in his hand; it is (saith he) a beautifull burthen, which loads, more than it adorne.

ark made a Sermon-like Orati-  
on unto him, which, as it was  
uttered with much Gravity, so  
it was heard with no lesse Atten-  
tion, and embraced by the Em-  
perour, with great Thankfulnes.  
Not presuming, Sir, to teach you  
what you doe not know, I am in-  
cited by my Calling, and encour-  
aged by your Clemency, to put you  
in minde, of what otherwise you  
may forget. This Crowne and  
Sceptre were sent you from Hea-  
ven; onely we have done our duty  
in delivering them unto you. And  
now me thinks, that Divine Ma-  
jesty perfectly shines in You his I-  
mage. These our Eyes upheld, &  
folded hands, and bared heads, and  
bended knees are due from us to  
God, and wee pay them to him,  
by paying them to you his Recei-  
ver. And wee doubt not, but you  
will improve the Power and Ho-  
nour

now bestowed on you, for the protection of the people committed unto you.

12. In a mans body, whilst natural Heat and radicall Moisture observe their limits; all is preserved in health; if either exceeds their bounds, the body either drowns, or burns. It fareth thus in the constitution of the State, betwixt your Power, and our Prosperity; whilst both agree, they support one another: but, if they fall out, about Masterie, even that which ever comes, will be destroyed in a generall confusion. And if you should betray your Trust, though we bow, and beare, and sigh, and sob, armed with Prayers and Teares; yet know, that our sad Mourning will mount into that Court, where lye the Appeals of Subjects, and the Censure of Soveraignes, which will heavily bee inflicted by him, whom  
you

you represent. Speake I not this,  
out of any distrust of your Justice,  
but out of earnest desire of your  
happinesse, wishing, that the great-  
nesse of Constantine, Founder of  
this place, the goodnesse of Jovian,  
the successe of Honorius, the long  
life of Valens, the quiet death of  
Manuel, the immortall fame of Ju-  
stinian, and whatsoever good was  
sing'd on them, may joyntly be hea-  
ped upon you, and your Posterity.

14. Hereupon followed such  
a shout of the people, as the old-  
est man present had not heard  
thelike; and all interpreted it  
as a token presaging the future  
felicity of the new Emperour.  
And thus we have presented the  
Reader, with the remarkable in-  
tricacie and perplexity of suc-  
cesse (as if Fortune were like to  
lose her selfe in a Labyrinth of  
her owne making, ) winding  
back-

backward and forward, within the compasse of five yeares, with more strange varieties then can easily bee parallell'd in so short a continuance of time.

1. First, *Alexius* ; no *Andronicus*.

2. Then, *Alexius* ; and *Andronicus*.

3. Then, *Andronicus* ; and *Alexius*.

4. Then, *Andronicus* ; no *Alexius*.

5. Then, *Isaacus* ; no *Andronicus*.

Thus, few strings cariously plaid upon by the cunning fingers of a skilfull Artist may make much Musick: and Divine Providence made here a miraculous harmony by these odd expected



etd transpositions, tuncing all  
to his owne glory. 1183.

1785 15. Here I intended to end  
our History; save that I cannot  
discharge my Trust, and bee  
faithfull to the Truth, without  
taking some speciall observati-  
on of *Basilins*. Wee cannot for-  
get how Active an Instrument  
hee had been to serve the cru-  
elty of *Andronicus*: and when  
first I looked wishly upon his  
hands (so busied in wicked em-  
ployments) I presently read  
his Fortune, that hee shou'd  
come to a violent death. The  
old \* Hermite seemed to mee a  
Prophet, to confirme me in my  
opinion, (when reprovng him  
for stickling in temporall mat-  
ters) and my conjectures grew  
confident, that this Patriarke  
in proceſſe of time, would ei-  
ther shake his Mitre from his  
head,

4th. Eook  
13. Paragt.

head, or his head from his shoulders. And, perchance, if the generous Reader would be pleased freely to confesse his thoughts therein, hee was possesse with the same expectation.

16. How wide were we from the marke? how blinde is Man in future Contingents? How wise is God, in crossing our conceits, leaving the world amused with his wayes; that men finding themselves at a losse, may learne more to adore, what they cannot understand! See *Basilus*, as brave, and as bright as ever; and whilst all his Fellow-servants had their wages paid them by *Andronicus*, (some made longer in their Necks, others shorter by their Heads) He alone survives in Health and Honour: which made most to admire, what peculiar Antidote  
of

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Act I. Sc. I.

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of Sovereigne vertue hee had  
gotten, to preserve himselfe  
from the infectious fury of that  
Tyrant.

17. But that which advan-  
ceth this wonder into the Marks  
of a Miracle, is, that this  
cunning Pilot, should so quick-  
ly tacke about, when the winde  
changed, and ingratiate Him-  
selfe with *Isaacus*. When times  
suddenly turned from Ex-  
tremes; those persons which  
formerly were first in favour,  
are cast farthest behinde, and  
they must bee very active and  
industrious to recover them-  
selves. But *Basilus* by a strange  
Dexterity, was instantly in the  
front of Favourites, and, with-  
out any abatement, carryed it  
in as high a straine as ever be-  
fore; and, although (being  
weary already) I am loath to

travell further into the Reigne of this new Emperour, to see in the sequell thereof what became of *Basilius* at last; yet, so farre as I can from the best chosen Advantage discern and discover his successe; no signall Punishment, aboue the ordinary Standard of Casualties, did befall Him; and, for ought appears to the contrary, hee dyed in his bed.

18. Of such as seriously consider this Accident, some perchance may bee so well stockt with Charity, as to conceive, that hee repented of his former Impiety; and, thereupon, was pardoned by Heaven, and came to a peaceable end. Others may conceive, that as, when a whole Forrest of Trees is felled, some aged, eminent, Oake, by the high-ways side, may

may bee suffered to surviye, as  
uselesse for Timber, because de-  
cayed; yet, usefull for a Land-  
marke, for the direction of Tra-  
vellers; for *Basilus* being now  
aged, and past dangerous Activi-  
ty, was preserved for the Infor-  
mation of Posterity, and (when  
all others were cut downe by  
cruell deaths,) he left alone to  
instruct the insuing age of the  
Tragicall passage which had hap-  
pened in his Remembrance. But  
the most solid, and judicious  
will expresse themselves in the  
language of the \* Apostle, *Some* \* 1 Tim. 5.  
*mens sinnes are open before-hand,* 24.  
*going before to judgement, and*  
*some mens follow after.* All no-  
torious offenders are not pub-  
lickly branded in the World  
with an infamous Character of  
shame or paine: but some carrie  
their sinnes concealed, and re-  
ceive

ceive the reward for them in another world.

19. It onely remaineth, that we now give the personall description of *Andronicus*, so farre forth as it may be collected from the few extant Authors which have written thereof.

His

O



His Statute.

**H**EE was higher then the ordinary sort of Men. He was seven full feet in length ( if there be no mistake in the difference of the measure. ) And whereas, often the Cock-loft is empty, in those which Nature hath built many stories high; his head was sufficiently stored with all Abilities.

II.

*His Temper.*

**O**F a most healthfull Constitution, of a lively Colour, and vigorous Limbes, so that

*Andronicus, or*

that he was used to say, that he could endure the violence of any Disease for a Twelve-month together by his sole naturall strength, without being beholding to Art, or any assistance of Physic.

### III.

*His Learning.*

**H**E had a quicke Apprehension, and solid judgement, and was able on any emergent occasion, to speake rationally on any Controversie in Divinity. Hee would not abide to heare any Fundamentall Point of Religion brought into question; insomuch, that when once two Bishops began to contend about the meaning of that noted place, *My Father is greater than I am*; *Andronicus* suspecting that they would fall



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fall foule upon the *Arrian* Heresie, vowed to throw them both into the River; except they would bee quiet. A way to quench the hottest Disputation, by an in-artificiall Answer, drawne from such Authority.

**III.**

*His Wives.*

**FIRST,** *Theodora Comnenia*, Daughter of *Isaacius Sebastocrator*, his nearest kinswoman; so that the Marriage was most incestuous.

The second, *Anna*, Daughter to the King of France: of whom, largely before.

**V. His**

*Andronicus, son of*  
and Concupiscence: yet what  
Father observeth  
*His lawfull Issue, both by*  
*his first Wife.*

**J**OHAN COMMENIUS, his  
eldest sonne. It seemes hee  
was much deformed, and his  
Soule, as cruell, as his body,  
ugly. He assisted *Hagio Christo-*  
*phorita-Stephanus* in the stifling  
of *Xene*.

*Adammel*, his second sonne, of  
a most vertuous disposition. Let  
those, that undertake the ensu-  
ing History, shew how both  
had their eyes bored out by  
*sanctus*.

**VL**  
*His Naturall Issue.*

**I** Meet with none of their  
names, and though hee lived  
wantonly with many Harlots,  
and

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and Concubines: yet ( what a  
Father observeth ) *πολυγαμία μισή*  
*ἐπιτολή* ; *Many Wives make few*  
*children.* And it may be impu-  
ted to the providence of Na-  
ture, that Monsters (such as *Am-  
dromicus*) in this particular, are  
happy that they are Barren.

VII.

*His Buriall.*

**B**Y publike Edict it was pro-  
hibited that any should bury  
his body ; however, some were  
found , who bestowed, though  
not a *solemne grave*, yet an ob-  
scure *hole* upon him, not out of  
pitty to him, but out of love to  
themselves ; except any will say,  
that his Corps, by extraor-  
dinary stinch, provided its owne  
buriall, to avoyd a generall an-  
noyance.

*FINIS.*